THE UK'S [illegible]EST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

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TONY MAUDSLEY
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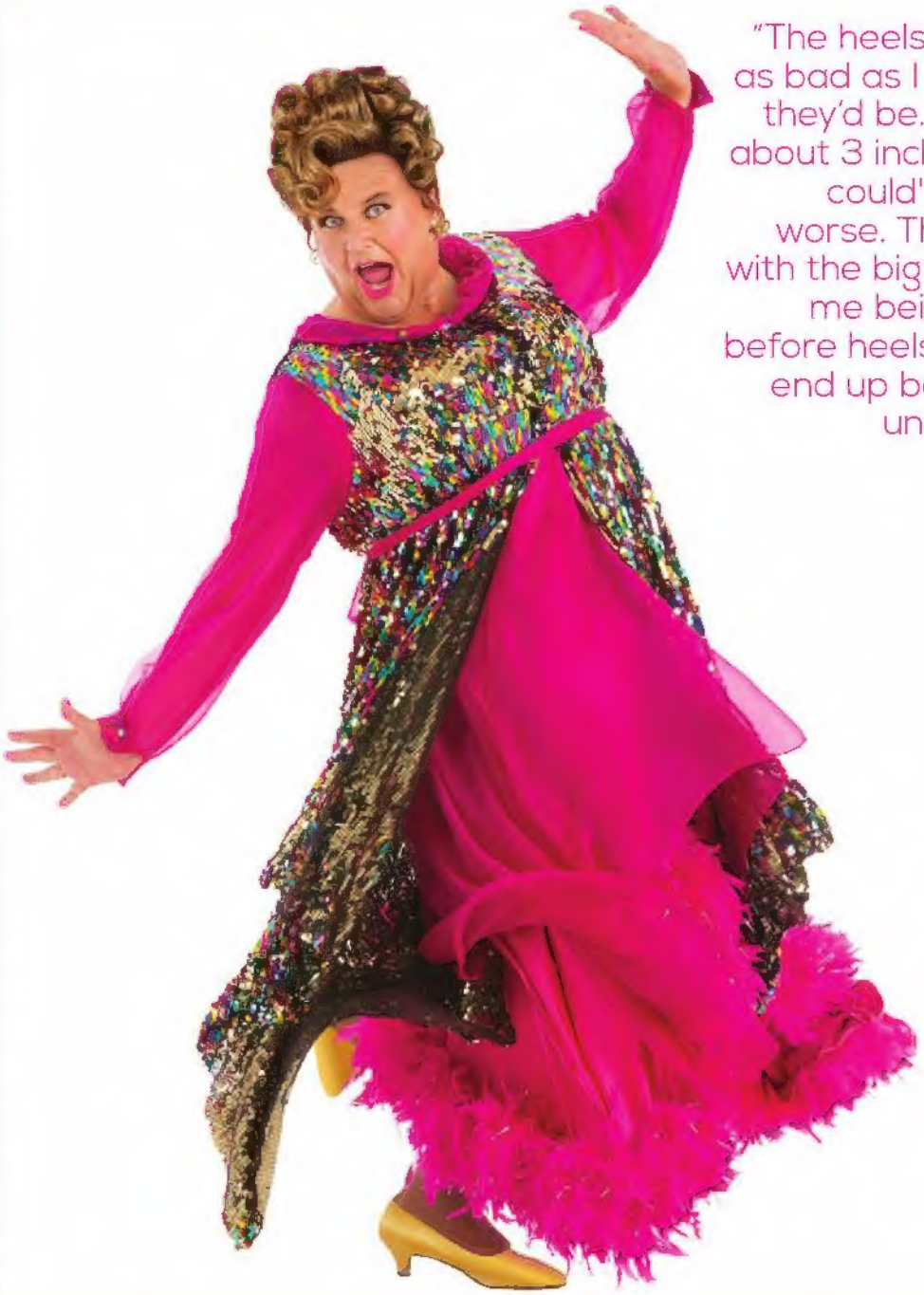


"The heels are not as bad as I thought they'd be. They're about 3 inches so it could've been worse. That said, with the big wig and me being 6ft 4 before heels, I could end up being just under 7ft."

FROM BENIDORM TO HAIRSPRAY

Zone talks to... Tony Maudsley

British actor Tony Maudsley is ditching the Spanish sun to star as Edna Turnblad in the latest touring production of Hairspray. Tony's been soaking up the rays playing the ever-so-camp Kenneth Du Beke in hit ITV1 comedy series Benidorm.

Midlands Zone here chats to him about the challenge of playing Edna - and of finding himself following in some rather illustrious footsteps...

Edna is a larger than life character. What excites you most about playing her?
What I didn't want to do was create a 'tribute Edna'. I wanted to take her as far away from a panto dame as I possibly could, so I took the character back to the bare bones and thought, 'Why is she like that? Why hasn't she left her house in so many years?'
I thought it'd be quite sad to be like that, but I needed to understand the journey of her getting to love herself again. Getting it right was a challenge, as I didn't want to be a cheap laugh. I wanted people to love her, feel sorry for her and understand where she's going.

How did the role come about?
I didn't seek the role, they came to me. I had no plans to do a musical, or even any theatre. I hadn't done any theatre for twelve years, and it was more than eighteen years since I'd done my last musical, but my agent phoned me and said, 'They've asked to see you for Hairspray'. When I put on the CD, I thought the music was pretty special, so decided to give it a go. They offered it to me the next day, so here I am!

Did you have any initial reservations?
Touring at my age isn't the same as touring when you're twenty, and this is a lengthy tour. I'm sort of taking a lot of responsibility as the head of the company. On my other tour I was a chorus boy and had a brilliant time. Now there's a certain amount of responsibility that comes with the role. I'm leading a young company who I'm sure will tempt me to stray at some point. I said to Claire Sweeney that I feel like we're their nan and granddad. For a lot of the company this is their first gig, so on the first night, when we heard the roar from the audience, it was their first time. When they're moved, I'm moved - you get flashbacks to your first show, which can be overwhelming.

How are you managing your dresses, hair, makeup?
The heels aren't as bad as I thought they'd be. They're about three inches, so it could've been worse. That said, with the big wig and me being six foot four even before heels, I could end up being just under seven foot. My favourite pair of shoes that Edna wears are her flat slippers - but if I had my way, she'd be wearing trainers!

And the make up?
I just sit back and think of England while some woman comes in and does it for me. I wouldn't have a clue. I'd look a mess, like a prostitute. So I'm lucky that somebody comes in and does all that for me.

> " Hairspray has its own fans who follow the show around, so you really do want to get it right for them as well as for yourself."

What elements of your personality and you going to bring to the show?
To Edna? Loyalty, I think. She's very loyal to her family, and I am to mine. She's caring, she stands up for what's right, and I think we're quite similar like that. She doesn't like people being singled out and nor do I, I can't bear that.

Were you ever daunted following in the footsteps of the likes of Brian Conley and Michael Ball?
Absolutely. They've both done it to great acclaim, haven't they? I didn't want to be crap and get slagged off for being the worst Edna ever, so there was a pressure. Hairspray has its own fans who follow the show around, so you really do want to get it right for them as well as for yourself.

A lot of your other roles have been quite serious, how did you transition into a character such as Edna?
It was my dad who said, 'Why don't you do some comedy?'. I told him I didn't really get to pick; things just came along. I was doing some really serious, heavy French plays in London, and my agent said there was an audition for Benidorm. I dashed across London in my lunch hour and rushed in for my Benidorm audition. I literally had ten minutes to do it, and when I ran in, I was out of breath and feeling hot. The people who auditioned me said the reason I got it was because I was complaining about the heat. I think we all get seen because of what box we're in. At the minute I'm definitely in a comedy box. I don't get to do much serious stuff - although I did get to do Ordinary Lives last year, which was quite a heavy programme; a hard drama. I'm happy, though - I'm working and I'm enjoying it.

What's in the pipeline post the Hairspray tour?
Hopefully more Benidorm, and then there's the possibility of a transfer of Hairspray. Taking it into London would be lovely, and that's what we're all hoping for. It's been a while - it finished in 2006, so there's a whole new generation waiting.

Tony Maudsley stars in **Hairspray the Musical** at Birmingham's **New Alexandra Theatre** from **Monday 14 December** until **Saturday 2 January.**

Local LGBT support group founder enters annual Independent on Sunday Rainbow List

The Independent on Sunday has revealed its sixteenth annual Rainbow List, a list that recognises the most influential lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in Britain, with the founder of a Birmingham LGBT support group also making the list for the first time.

Khakan Qureshi entered the listed at number thirty-five after setting up an LGBT support group for South Asians in Birmingham. Finding A Voice is a group for those aged 18 and above, regardless of their faith or culture. The group works to change attitudes towards LGBT Asians and help eradicate homophobia.

This year, new entry Riley Carter Millington claims The Independent on Sunday's number one place, marking the first time a trans man has been ranked at the top of the list.

This year's judges felt that Riley represents a tipping point for the representation of transgender people in the media, as he becomes the first trans actor to play a trans character in a continuous role in a British soap. Riley's achievement is a result of years of hard work and campaigning by many behind the scenes, all of which has positively championed the LGBTI community.

The Rainbow List 2015 continues to place great emphasis on the importance of its new intersex category this year, with three people in the top five. Intersex advocate and drugs therapist Sarah Grahamis celebrated in second place, having publicly spoken about her experience as an intersex woman, arguing that intersex is a "part of all creation".

Supermodel turned actress and world famous fashion icon Cara Delevingne makes her debut in the 2015 List at number seven. This follows Cara openly discussing her relationship with current girlfriend, musician St. Vincent, and bravely opening up about her sexuality in Vogue for the first time in the last year.

The 2015 List recognises individuals paving the way for the future generations of pioneers within the LGBTI community, highlighting a commitment to their intersectionality and activism. It 'shines a light' on those not necessarily known as household names, but responsible for real change and influence in their campaigns for equality and recognition. Sponsored by Asda for a second year running, the List has become a widely received and warmly embraced register of people who have worked hard to promote progress and equality in the UK.

Employment tribunal rules gay priest not discriminated against

A gay priest who was denied permission to work with the Church of England following his marriage to his partner was not discriminated against, an employment tribunal has ruled.

Canon Jeremy Pemberton, from the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, had his permission to officiate revoked in June 2014, following his marriage to partner Laurence Cunnington in April of the same year.

As a result, Pemberton had claimed harassment and discrimination against a former Nottinghamshire bishop, the Nottingham Justice Centre heard earlier this year.

The judgment from the hearing, released last month, also dismissed a claim of harassment and said: "The respondent did not commit an act of harassment. The claim is dismissed in its entirety.

"The claimant would never have been in this position had he not defied the doctrine of the church. In this case, context is all.

"We conclude in the context of matters, given that the church via the respondent acted lawfully... it would be an affront to justice if we were nevertheless to find what occurred constituted harassment."

The licence was revoked by Bishop Richard Neil Inwood, the former acting bishop for the diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

The diocese is currently served by the right reverend Paul Williams.

Posting to Twitter, Pemberton said: "I am disappointed, but my lawyers are preparing grounds of appeal."

Coventry Pride granted charity status in lead up to 2016 festival

This year Coventry celebrated its first pride, which brought together the rich and diverse LGBT and the wider community of Coventry.

Following the success of Pride (which organisers say saw over 6,000 people attend), Coventry Pride has announced it's been formally granted charity status.

As a charity, it aims to challenge prejudice, change perceptions and alter the public's way of thinking via regular events throughout the year such as Trans Day of Remembrance, National Coming Out Day and LGBT History Month. The charity's first event (which will also be a first for the city of Coventry) was Trans Day of Remembrance late last month.

The date for Coventry Pride 2016 is set to take place on 18 and 19 June and organisers have plans well under way to make it bigger and better than the 2015 debut event. Anybody who would like to be involved or support the event should email: enquiries@coventrypride.org.uk or visit www.coventrypride.org.uk for more information.

GET ALL THE LATEST NEWS AS IT HAPPENS AT MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK
Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/midlandszone and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/midlandszone

A soggy Chesterfield Pride 2015

Chesterfield Pride to host 'star-studded' Christmas fundraising event this month

Organisers of Chesterfield Pride have announced they will be hosting a Christmas fundraising event this month, in an effort to help finance next year's festival.

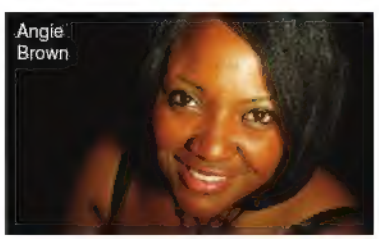
This summer saw Chesterfield host its debut Pride, which managed to attract over 2,000 people from the LGBT community and beyond. Organisers say that the day was "attended by all corners of society and was a great celebration of bringing people together".

Chesterfield Pride 2016 will once again be free to attend.

This month's fundraiser takes place at the Winding Wheel from 7pm on Wednesday 16 December. The event will feature a mix of local talent and drag queens, as well as better-known performers including Britain's Got Talent finalist Eva Iglesias and '90s dance legend Angie Brown. Other performers on the night include Pride favourites Kelly Wilde and Jason Prince.

Tickets cost £10 in advance or £12.50 on the night and include free entry into the I-Candy afterparty.

Tickets can be purchased by emailing chesterfieldpride@hotmail.com. For more information about Chesterfield Pride, follow the event on Twitter, @cfieldpride or like it on Facebook at www.facebook.com/chesterfieldpride.


Angie Brown

Eva Iglesias

Christmas show for Birmingham LGBT choir

Midlands LGBT choir Rainbow Voices is presenting its Christmas concert at All Saints Centre, Kings Heath, Birmingham, on Saturday 5 December.

Last year's concert was a sell out, so patrons are advised to get their tickets booked early, via tickets@rainbow-voices.org.uk, or from any member.

Doors open 6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start. Refreshments are available and children are welcome, free or at a reduced price. A donation will be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

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Kwik Prick is a free rapid HIV test for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities, and is available at Trade every Monday* from 12 noon until 6pm.
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• Result within minutes
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Appointments can be made for other days.
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For more information call us on 0116 254 1747
or visit us at www.tradesexualhealth.com
*Kwik Prick is not available on Public Holidays
Trade Charity Number: 1081552

ALCOHOL LGBT SUPPORT GROUP
BIRMINGHAM LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP
After more than 11 years we are sorry to have to announce that the Group will no longer be meeting.
We want to say a big
THANK YOU
to everybody who started the Group, supported us and helped in any way.
We hope that a new service helping with alcohol problems will soon take our place.

www.jdlforleather.co.uk
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Family Pride organisers to host 'Winter Fest' Christmas festival in Birmingham

Organisers of the annual Family Pride festival have announced they are to hold a Christmas festival later this month.

Taking place on Sunday 6 December at the Bullring Tavern in Birmingham, the 'sparkly' Christmas party will be an event full of fun for all the family.

Geared at families who have same-sex parents and their friends, Winter Fest will feature a Winter Wonderland, complete with a big traditional Christmas tree, masses of decorations and may be even some snow.

Plus, for all of your good children out there, the event will also come complete with a visit from Father Christmas himself.

Winter Fest is a free event, and promises to be fun for all the family, taking place between 2pm and 4pm.

The original Family Pride festival returns in 2016 on Friday 5 August until Monday 8 August with tickets now on sale.

The event, which takes place at

Family Pride 2015

Barnswood Scout Camp in Leek, Staffordshire and features plenty of fun activities for the whole family to enjoy, including arts and crafts, music and more.

For more information about both Winter Fest and Family Pride, visit www.familyprideuk.co.uk

New café launches at Birmingham's LGBT centre

Moments Café, which has opened at the LGBT Centre at Holloway Circus, will be serving freshly-made breakfasts and lunches, snacks, cakes and drinks.

It is the first café for the John Taylor Hospice, whose motto 'Every moment matters' was the source of inspiration for the café's name.

Senior barista Bryan Paice said the idea for Moments came from the great responses from patients and families to the food offered at the hospice.

"Our chef team always makes every meal matter with delicious food that is 'Taylor-made' and good for you," he said. "People already love our food so we decided that opening a café would be a great way of sharing that.

"Moments is a city centre venue where you can meet with friends and colleagues, enjoy a great bite to eat and indulge in premier teas and coffees.

"All the proceeds of Moments Café will fund specialist care for the hundreds of people who come to John Taylor Hospice every year."

The café will initially be open between 7am and 2.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Helping to build a better community: Birmingham LGBT seeking donations

Local charity Birmingham LGBT is seeking donations from members of the LGBT community to help support the services the organisation provide.

Bullying, isolation, self-harm, low self-esteem and poor health are all major issues experienced frequently by the LGBT community as a consequence of recurring discrimination faced by LGBT people.

Birmingham LGBT is a user led charity embedded within the local community with a track record of successful project and service delivery. They've developed a pioneering health and well-being centre in Birmingham which has gained national recognition and won multiple awards. As well as this, the charity have a range of services and projects; from an older people's befriending service to an empowerment project for young people. They're quite literally a Birmingham success story who are passionate about building a proud, visible and vibrant LGBT community within the city and beyond.

The team are working to develop a community in the city in which individuals can realise their full potential and have equal access to everything the city has to offer. To achieve this Birmingham LGBT must sustain and develop their services so that they're always there for the community and they can't do this without support.

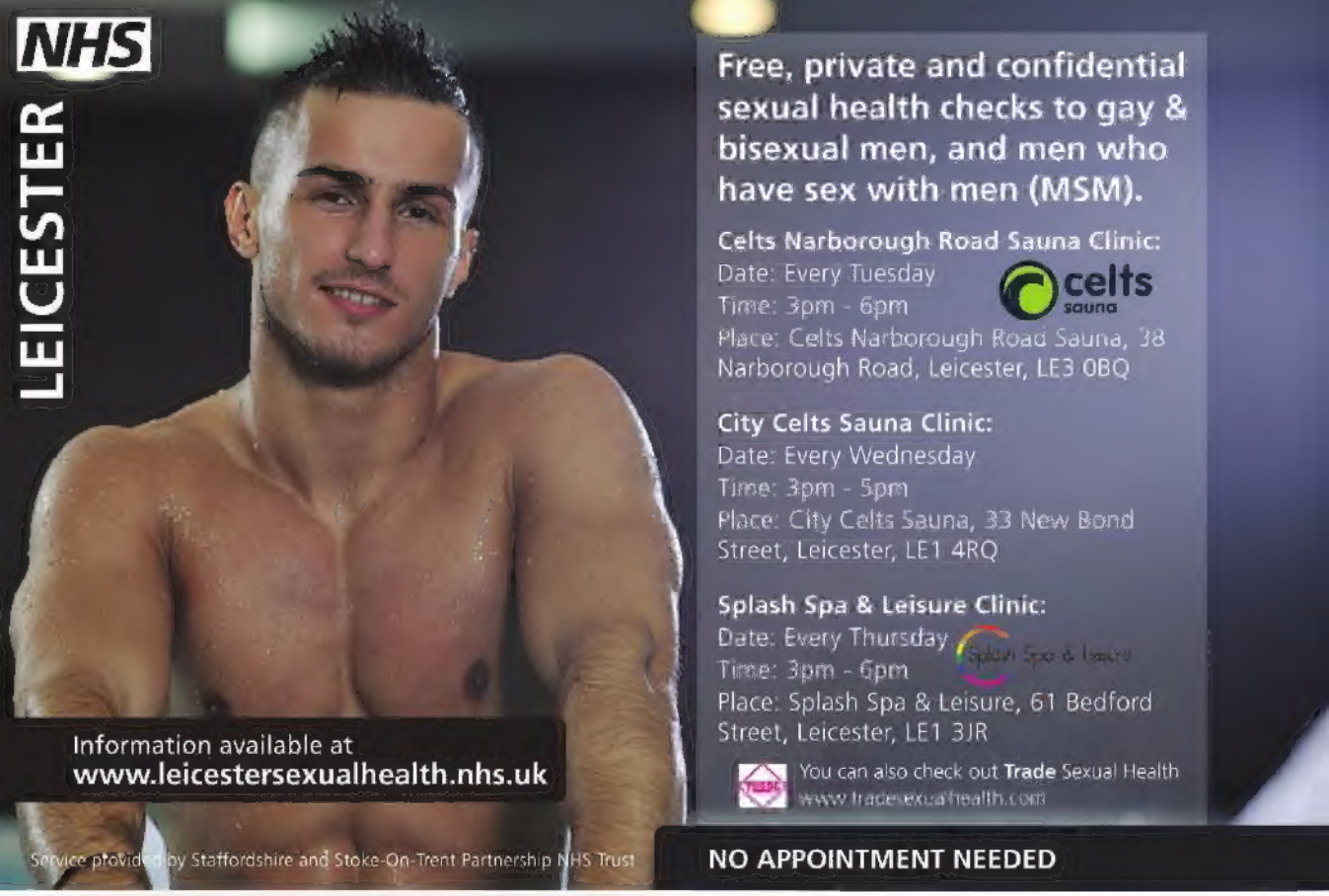
It costs £633 to run the Health and Wellbeing Centre each day. The Centre provides a hub for the LGBT community in Birmingham, hosting a range of services from wellbeing awareness to older people support, acting as a venue for community led meetings, as well as workshops and directly delivering events.

£80 allows them to facilitate a two hour support group providing a safe environment where members of the LGBT community with a common issue can share concerns and can support each other.

And just £45 means they can provide meeting space for one of the LGBT led community groups for two hours.

The charity is appealing for people to support these vital services and be part of making a positive difference to the lives of LGBT people in Birmingham.

If you'd like more information about the charity or would like to donate, then visit www.bigbt.org


NHS
LEICESTER
Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).
Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:
Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: Celts Narborough Road Sauna, 38 Narborough Road, Leicester, LE3 0BQ
celts sauna
City Celts Sauna Clinic:
Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Place: City Celts Sauna, 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ
Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:
Date: Every Thursday
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: Splash Spa & Leisure, 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR
You can also check out Trade Sexual Health
www.tradesexualhealth.com
Information available at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk
Service provided by Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent Partnership NHS Trust
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

LesbianGayBisexualTransYouth
GALAXY
Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust
For more info
info@galaxyyouth.co.uk
0300 123 0970
GayLife
Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.
Gay Galaxyyouth Centre

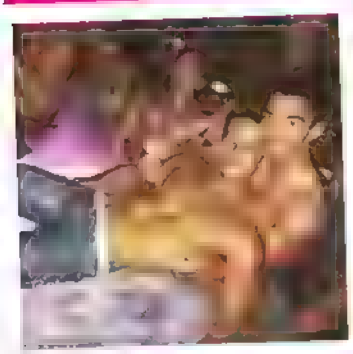
THE VIRAL ROUND UP

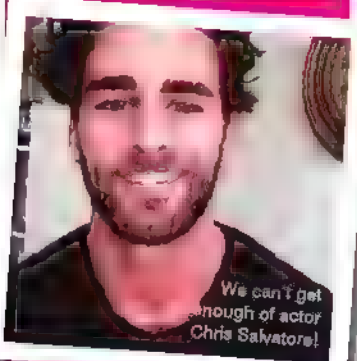
HERE'S WHAT WE VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

CELEB SNAPS!

OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...

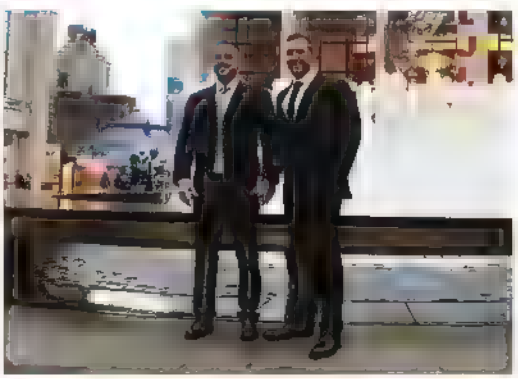




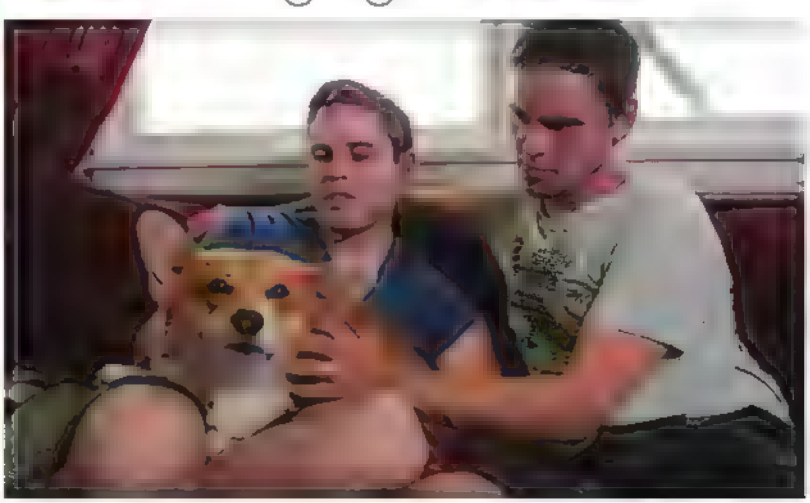
Hollyoaks star Richardson looking a little cute!

Guy proposes to boyfriend in CUTE PROPOSAL complete with CHORAL FLASHMOB!

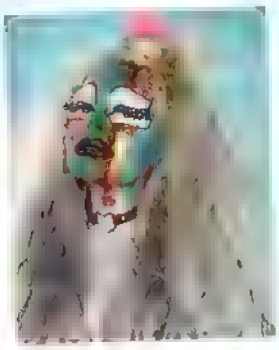
This is the cutest thing we saw on the internet last month. This gay couple's flashmob proposal will leave you all warm and happy after watching it. The proposal took place in New York City last month. It saw the Stonewall Chorale sing the emotional Love Changes Everything from the musical Aspects Of Love, before our proposer bent down on one knee to pop the question. Are we jealous? You bet we are! If you want to watch this oh-so-cute vid, then head here: goo.gl IDcWp3



WATCH THIS! Buzzfeed take a hilarious look at the weird things gay couples do



Part and parcel of getting into a relationship with another guy are the crazy quirks we develop as a couple. Buzzfeed noticed this and created this pretty funny video documenting some of the best. Check out the video here: youtu.be/0UghGRbHEwM



Lacey Lou

'Door Whore' and member of the Housewives Of Birmingham,
The Nightingale, Birmingham

Born: Northern Ireland
Star sign: Aquarius
Age: 24

About Lacey

Where did you grow up, Queeny?

I grew up down south, mostly in Aldershot and Reading. I moved around a lot, as my parents were in the military. They enrolled me in a military boarding school at 13. I had to grow up quickly, but it was an interesting experience. I'm a southern army brat.

Single or attached?

I have a gorgeous partner of nearly three years. It was love at first sight as we locked drunken eyes in the dive that is Wakabout. He was actually trying it on with one of my friends. He's supportive, caring and deals with my crazy personality so gracefully! A good man in a storm. He works in one of the venues on the scene, too.

What makes you happy?

Glitter, listening to records, my great group of friends, the Housewives, trying different independent restaurants, music - especially Blink 182 and Disclosure, which are played nearly every day - making things, animals, unicorns, drag, cleaning (I'm odd with cleaning!), kind people and even more glitter.

What makes you sad?

I'm 24, young and slowly learning the world's ways, good and bad. Life is bloody hard. Establishing a career and progressing is competitive, dealing with societal pressures and expectations is tough, and the fight against a small-minded world is constant and draining. From a young age I've dealt with depression and awful anxiety issues, and it feels 10 times worse when you have a creative brain with overly passionate and emotional traits. This is one of the reasons I wanted to do drag - to work on the anxiety and confidence issues, and to show others that you can do and achieve whatever you want, with a middle finger to what society wants to mould you to. You pick yourself up after the bad and continue being effing fabulous.

What makes you angry?

Small-minded people, racism, homophobia and sexism, negative attitudes towards women doing drag, being put down because I believe in creativity over money, mistreatment of animals, bad wifi connections and messiness!

If you could change any one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To stop giving a sh*t about what others think of me, what I'm doing and my choices. That can be very hard when you work and socialise on the scene.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I embarrass myself regularly, as I'm a general wally. I miss my mouth and spill it down me. I drop things, I break things and I pee the bed when steaming drunk.

Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?

I used to say I wouldn't get married til same-sex marriage was legalised - and now, hooray, we have it. Marriage scares me - I'm too young at the moment.

We know you are very passionate about gay rights, why is that?

I'm passionate about all rights in terms of achieving equality. I think it stemmed from being seen as an outcast because of my creativity and liberal views as a teen. This then developed into the realisation of female inequality in the world, and then spread to the feeling of, why the hell are people treated differently because of how they're born... This isn't okay!

Your Career

What's the Housewives Of Birmingham?

We're a four-queen drag family, each very different to the others. Anna Lies is tall, green and the most fun I've ever had, with a give-a-sh*t attitude. Queeny is a queen of sewing and embellishment, making new outfits each week and rarely repeating. China is a mysterious mud-and-oil-slithered witch whose way with words can make you melt. I'm the glittery equality-driven creature. Vodka, cigarettes and equality attitudes are our main things in common.

How did the Housewives Of Birmingham start?

We started a little over a year ago after the Nightingale felt they needed a group of hosts to entertain and be a point of call for customers' questions and queries whilst on a night out. We've ended up becoming so much more, which is so exciting for us and for the Nightingale.

What do you do?

The Housewives are around to entertain and give people something different, outrageous and fun on a night out. We make sure people are okay, make them laugh, dance with them, stick up for them and spread a general welcoming atmosphere to anyone who enters the venue.

What's the best part of the job?

The best part is getting to talk to so many different people in the club. Many have never seen a drag queen, let alone one that's straight and female. They have many questions, and it's good to spread the attitude of, if you want to do something, do it. Don't let things like sexuality and gender stop you in life.

What's your favourite look?

I don't have one. I'm still learning about makeup techniques, wigs and putting together an outfit. Each new one becomes my favourite as I progress.

Have you ever pulled in drag?

I started doing drag whilst I was with my partner, so pulling has never been on the cards! I think I freak out and intimidate most straight men who enter the club.

You recently threw one of your first parties, Glitter Shit! What are your hopes for the event?

The plans for Glitter Sh!t to be pure fun and feelgood. Glitter Shit is everything I essentially love in a night out - '90s dance & disco, artists and glitter. Everyone had an amazing night, and we had people from different venues joining in. The clubbing experience has lost its je ne sais quoi, and I hope Glitter Shit will ignite things. I don't want it to be too big or expensive. I saw we had something quite unique whilst we were doing our first one. I want to keep it that way and not commercialise it. It's not about money and it's not about ego.

What are your future ambitions for yourself in Birmingham?

I hope to continue doing drag and perhaps move on to performing in some way. I hope to continue doing Glitter Shit and make it get better. I hope to help shape and improve Birmingham's gay scene and get involved more in the arts scene around Birmingham.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

I'd been out to the Nightingale a few times and had THE best time (once with my mother too, who loves the gay village!). I started working at the Nightingale, on the bar, on the Friday of Birmingham Pride 2013 and instantly felt at home. I then moved to the Loft Lounge family, and then to the marketing department of the Nightingale. I now work at Celfi Salon on Hurst Street, and I'm a drag queen at the Nightingale.

And what's your fondest memory of the gay scene?

Gosh. I have too many great memories from the scene to choose. I think being a part of the Birmingham Pride parade this year on the Nightingale float with the Housewives, is a fond memory. I felt extremely proud to be a part of it with everyone. There's a united feeling at Pride events that's so positive and electric. I also felt proud of the Housewives for representing the Nightingale. I can't wait for Pride 2016!

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

There are some great acts, I honestly don't have a favourite! The first show and drag queen I saw was Miss Marty at the Nightingale so that was a special moment. Who would've thought we'd later go on to become friends and work together! Twiggy is another favourite and an absolute inspiration, yet I still haven't seen a show! I also love Miss Penny - she makes me laugh so much.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

I couldn't possibly choose one, I'm so lucky to have met so many fantastic people. Curtis, Hayden and Jon were my first loves on the scene, then I met Leebo - and, jeez, do we have memories! The Loft Lounge family and the Housewives. Meeting Antony and Dan was a big moment. We're a creative trio full of mad ideas, and I'm excited about the projects we're doing. I love them so much.

What do you enjoy most about the gay scene?

The people, the people, the people. There are so many talented characters that make the scene what it is. Most of my friends work in the gay village, so it's always social - and often distracting when working!

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

Since I started working on the scene, it's changed so much - and in only a couple of years. The events are getting better and the drag scene is slowly thriving again, with a rising unity between younger and older generations. Attitudes towards sexualities, genders and race seem to be improving, with a more relaxed, fluid feeling. However, we aren't completely there yet - equality is for ALL.

How would you change the Midlands gay scene?

I really dislike the slightly unspoken rivalry between venues. If I'm honest, I wish we had more feeling of a community, and worked together to improve the scene. Personally, I feel each venue is different from the others and caters for different groups of people or what you fancy doing that night. In that sense, how can you be competitors? As the second city, we should be a thriving hub of activity, and representative of all the groups of people that make up the gay community!

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

It depends what mood I'm in! I like having cocktails in bars like the Victoria, Turtle Bay & the Loft Lounge. I like the Nightingale, the Village, Missing and some events in Digbeth.

What do you do to relax?

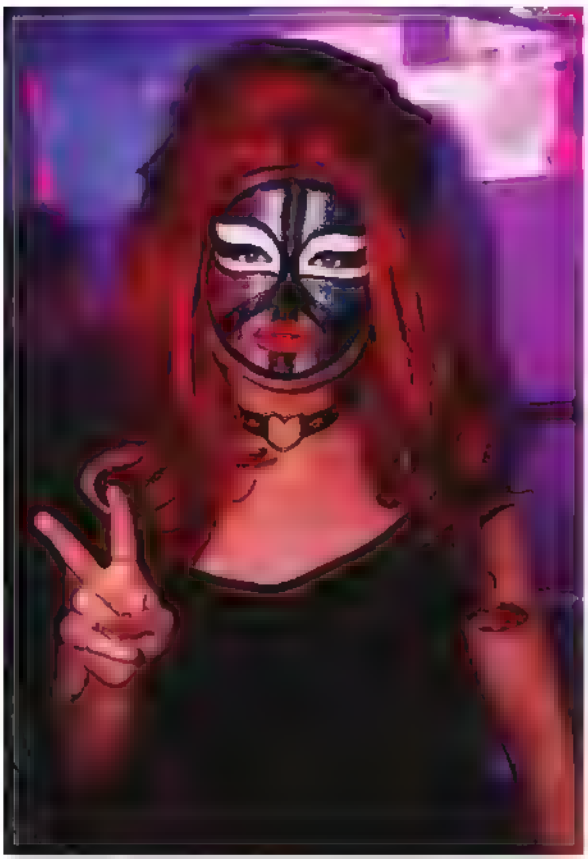
Relaxing isn't something I've had much time for recently, due to working so much! Popping the earphones in and listening to music is a big favourite. Also, I love to lie in bed with blankets and tea, watching films and box sets. A cheeky drink after work with my friends is a usual unwinder, and I'm trying to do yoga at the moment too - which is interesting and remarkably hard.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I didn't have a TV for a while, so now I don't really watch it. I hate soaps. My mum would watch Neighbours religiously, but I don't get what all the fuss is with them. I love watching box sets and films with my boyfriend and Miranda, my bestie and housemate. We've watched Grey's Anatomy, Girls, Friends and Sex And The City repeatedly the past year, and I'm still not bored of them.

What was the last album or track you bought?

I pay for Spotify - it's every music lover's dream! I love all types of music, especially older music. I'm not a massive fan of chart music at all. I think the last album bought was Broke With Expensive Taste by Azealia Banks. An awesome album by a talented woman who unfortunately doesn't articulate her thoughts properly under the pressure of the limelight.



What website do you spend the most time using?

Due to my job, I end up spending far too much time on all social media platforms, which I hate! I love online shopping and getting cheap things from eBay or Wish - it's great for homeware and cheap jewellery!

What type of holiday do you prefer?

Hot, hot, hot, as I feel the cold! Las Vegas was my last holiday - and holy mother was it amazing! An adults' playground - and I did play! The next holiday would be to travel around Asia, dive into the culture and do some charity work where I can. I have a fascination with Asia's beauty. I love water - my mum used to call me a water babe as a child - so white sand and crisp blue seas is a total dream.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite actor?

Audrey Hepburn. Talent, beauty and compassion.

What's your favourite book?

Breakfast At Tiffany's by Truman Capote.

Half empty or half full?

Vodka or gin half full. I'm a slow drinker.

What's your favourite food?

Anything edible.

And how about your favourite drink?

Coke from a can with a straw.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

The iconic Madonna.

If you could take a selfie with one person, alive or dead, who would it be?

Audrey Hepburn. Forever and always.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS...

Tis the season to be jolly - but one of the most stressful aspects of Christmas is finding those perfect presents for your friends and family. Here are some of our favourite gifts - and hey, you might even spot something you fancy buying for yourself!

01 Plantronics Back Beat Sense Stereo Headphones
Streaming audio pauses as soon as you slip off the headphones and resumes playback when you put them on. Control two Bluetooth devices (think smartphone and tablet) up to 330 ft/100m away, without even touching them.
£136.00
www.amazon.co.uk

02 Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II
The E-M10 - the latest addition to the OLYMPUS OM-D line-up. Beautifully built, classic design with ergonomically laid-out controls. It's up to date with the latest technologies for the finest images and movies - featuring 5-axis image stabilisation, wi-fi connectivity, electronic viewfinder and a huge range of superb lenses. A camera that fits your discerning style and is the perfect companion wherever you go - truly giving you the power to create!
£611.99
www.jessops.co.uk

03 GoPro HERO4 Session
HERO4 Session packs the power of GoPro into their smallest, lightest, most convenient camera yet. Its rugged, waterproof design eliminates the need for a separate housing, while a single button powers on the camera and starts recording automatically.
£249.99
www.gopro.com

04 Motorola 360
Moto 360 keeps you up to date without needing to constantly grab your phone. Read Gmail messages and calendar invites at a glance, thanks to Android Wear. See what matters while staying in the moment.
£229.00
www.motorola.co.uk

05 Google Chromecast Audio
Cast the music you love from your favourite devices to the best speakers in your home. Chromecast Audio works with iPhone, iPad and Android devices, plus Chromebook, Mac and Windows laptops.
£30.00 store.google.com

06 The New Apple TV
The next-generation Apple TV is here and it's better than ever! You can now install apps and games to use directly through your TV. Plus, with the new Siri Remote, you can use voice search to find things effortlessly.
From £129.00 www.apple.com/uk

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01 Monster Go DJ
The Monster Go DJ is a pocket-sized portable DJ controller featuring two touchscreen turntables and 24 samplers. There's 4GB of internal storage (expandable to 2TB via SD card) and up to 12 hours of battery life. Perfect for mixing music on the go.
£493.00 www.amazon.co.uk

02 Michael Kors MK8157 Chronograph Watch
Bolster your everyday look with this timelessly cool Michael Kors MK8157 Chronograph watch. Crafted with a durable stainless-steel strap with a black dial, features include three-hand movement, three sub-dials and a convenient date window
£259.00
www.selfridges.com

03 Andersons Woven Leather Belt
A hard-working staple for the refined gent's wardrobe, Anderson's woven belt is crafted in quality leather. Doused in a rich wine tone, this timeless accessory lends itself to a multitude of on and off-duty looks
£95.00 www.selfridges.com

04 Moet & Chandon Ice Imperial
Moët Ice Impérial is the first and only Champagne specially created to be enjoyed over ice. A new champagne experience combining fun, fresh and free sensations while remaining true to the Moët & Chandon style – a style distinguished by its bright fruitiness, its seductive palate and its elegant maturity
£50.00 www.champagnedirect.co.uk

05 Jawbone Up3 Fitness Band
The most advanced activity tracker known to man, Jawbone's UP3 is packed with state-of-the-art sensors that give you the full picture of your health. Heart Health Sensor measures resting heart rate – a leading indicator of your overall health and fitness level. Workouts are automatically recognised and logged. You'll gain an in-depth understanding of your sleep. All this in an impossibly small design and with a full week of battery life
£129.99 www.jawbone.com

06 Panasonic 5-blade Shaver
The 5-Blade Wet/Dry Shaver from Panasonic is 100 percent waterproof and uses Shaving Sensor Technology meaning the automatic stubble sensor detects a beard's density and adjusts motor speed for a powerful yet gentle shave. The distinct foil patterns work in combo to capture and cut even the difficult parts of your beard.
£260.00 www.selfridges.com

07 Paddle Vokda Set
Serve more sophisticated shots of vodka or after-dinner schnapps with this lovely set. The hand-crafted paddle-shaped oak board has six little indents to safely hold each hand-blown shot glass. It would also make an attractive way to serve individual panna cotta to guests
£31 99 www.lakeland.co.uk

08 Make Your Own Speakers
Let your creative talents run wild making and decorating a pair of speakers for listening to your favourite tunes. Simple to put together, each cardboard speaker can be personalised using the three coloured felt tips provided, to make a truly one-of-a-kind gift
£7 99 www.lakeland.co.uk

09 4ft Rainbow Skinny Tree
Go for it this festive season with this fabulous and fun rainbow Christmas tree. Measuring four feet in height, it has plenty of wire branches in colourful sections, from purple through blue and green into yellow, orange and red at the top
£40.00 www.paperchase.co.uk

10 Chomping Shark Slippers
Keep your feet warm this winter with these greatly sought-after and fashionable slippers! You'll be the envy of all your mates
£24.99 www.firebox.com

11 Philips OTT2000 Turntable/CD Player/Bluetooth Micro Sound System
With the resurgence of vinyl in full force, it's time to get your hands on one of these! Or if you've already got a collection, play your old LPs again with turntable and wireless music streaming. The original turntable is reminiscent of the legendary 1965 Philips AG4131 record player. It features a high-efficiency speaker and dynamically balanced turntable as well as Bluetooth wireless streaming and USB ripping for MP3 recording
£99.99 www.amazon.co.uk

12 Cards Against Humanity
Cards Against Humanity is a party game for horrible people. Unlike most of the party games you've played before, this one's as despicable and awkward as you and your friends.
The game is simple. Each round, one player asks a question from a Black Card, and everyone else answers with their funniest White Card
£20.00 www.amazon.co.uk

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FREEPHONE	- 0800 783 7953

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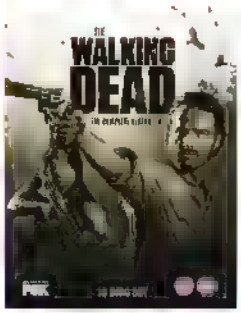
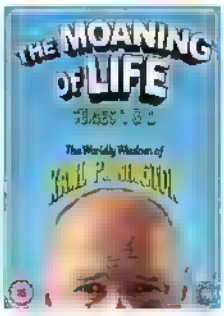
DVD BOX SETS





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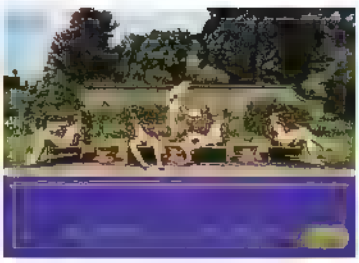
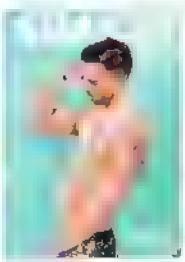
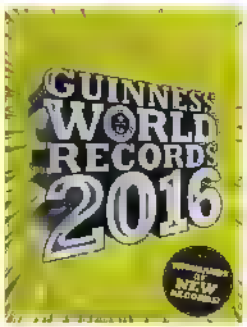
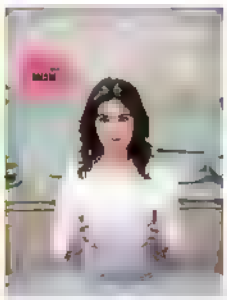
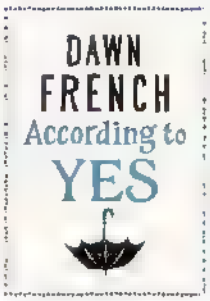
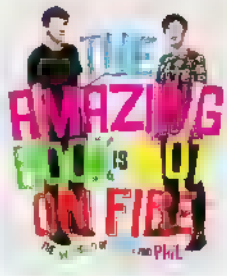



BOOKS





DVDs, from left to right

Downton Abbey Series 1-5
Contains all episodes of the six series of the ITV costume drama. Downton Abbey tells the story of the aristocratic Crawley family and the servants who work for them
£39.99 www.amazon.co.uk

The Walking Dead Series 1-4
All episodes from the first four seasons of the thrilling US drama
£38.29 www.amazon.co.uk

Breaking Bad Series 1-5
Every episode of the drug-fuelled US thriller
£42.99 www.amazon.co.uk

The Moaning Of Life Series 1-2
Both series of the travel documentary presented by Karl Pilkington.
£18.99 www.amazon.co.uk

The Big Bang Theory Series 1-8
All episodes from the first eight seasons of the geeky US sitcom
£34.99 www.amazon.co.uk

Calendars, from left to right

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If you're a lover of ginger guys, then this is the calendar for you.
£20.00 www.gingerparrot.co.uk

Tom Daley 2016
Getting better every year, the official Tom Daley calendar is full of hot images of the Olympic diving champion! It's a must-have
£10.00 www.amazon.co.uk

Warwick Rowers 2016
The Warwick Rowers are back and they're looking better than ever. A great calendar promoting anti-homophobia in sport
£14.99 www.warwickrowers.org

Project Soaked 2016
Full of hot, soaking-wet men, this calendar raises money for Prostate Cancer UK.
£14.99 www.clonezone.co.uk

Chris Mears 2016
An amazing collection of images of the British Olympic diver
£10.00 www.coitusmagazine.com

Books, from left to right

Spectacles
Sue Perkins
£9.99 www.amazon.co.uk

Guinness World Records 2016
Guinness World Records
£9.00 www.amazon.co.uk

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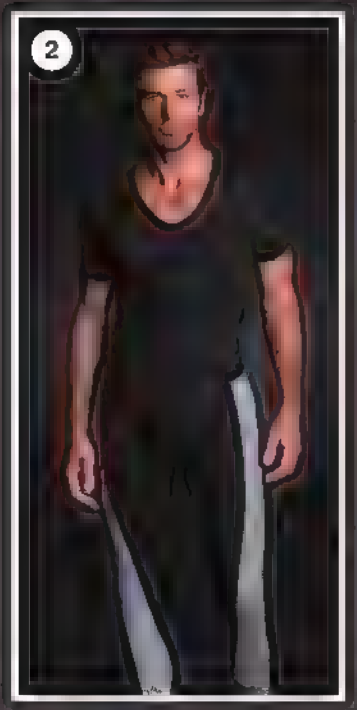

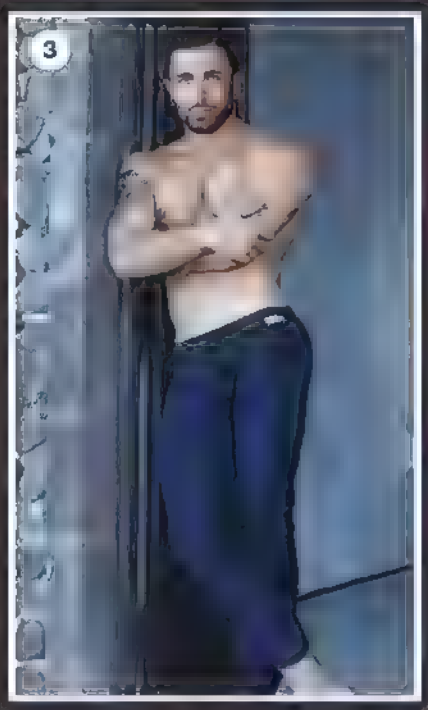

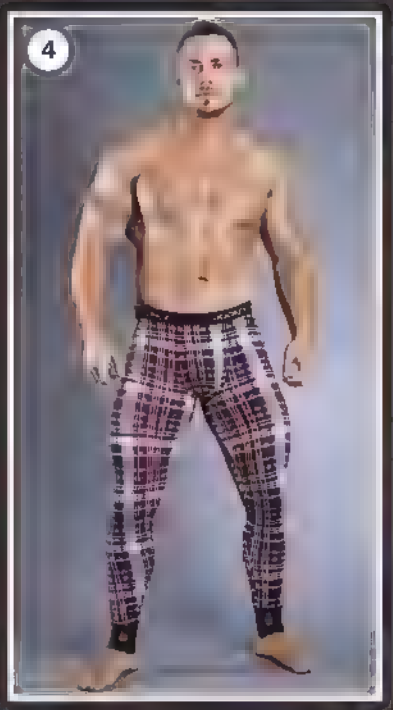

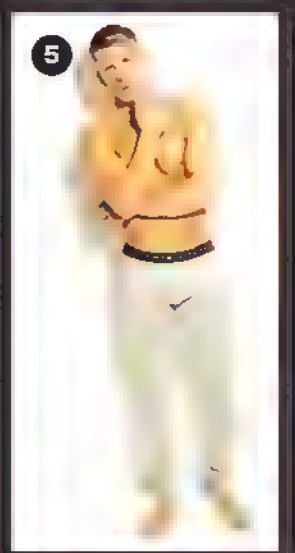

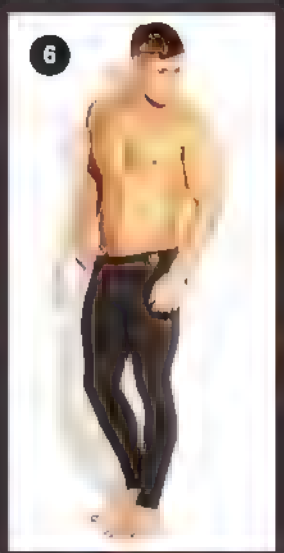

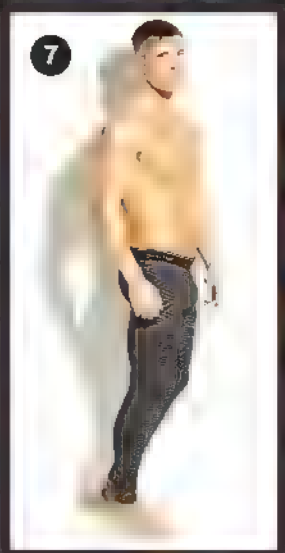

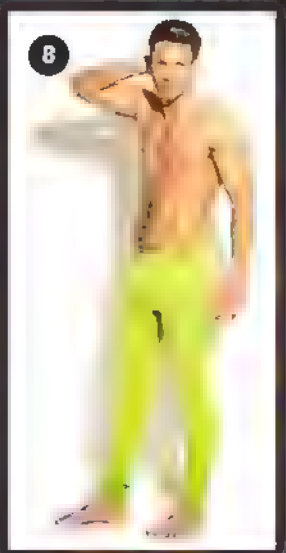

01 Andrew Christian Holiday Action Boxer
Featuring a slimming waistband, these long johns will look like they've been painted on!
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02 Olaf Benz Leggings
Microfibre from waist to ankle, with tyre tread inspired pattern.
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03 Modus Vivendi Wolf Meggings
Functional long johns that don't compromise style.
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04 Jockey Act Like A Man Long John
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05 Tommy Hilfiger Stretch Cotton Long John
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bangandstrike.com

06 Emporio Armani Grey Shield Long John
Made from soft touch fabric that's super-warm and comfy. It also features a contoured pouch for comfort!
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07 Calvin Klein Linear Stripey Long Johns
These comfy long johns are made from striped stretch cotton. Great for winter nights out and cosy times home. Features a contoured dual layer two ply pouch.
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bangandstrike.com

08 Emporio Armani Acid Yellow Shield Long John
Made from soft touch fabric that is super-warm and comfy. It also features a contoured pouch for comfort.
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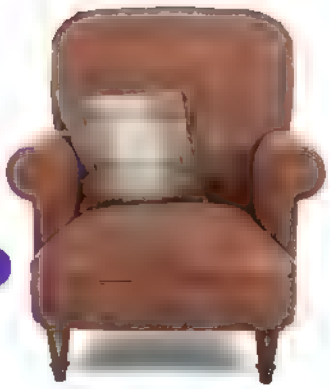
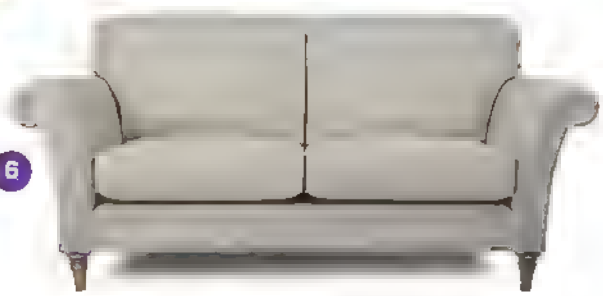
TAKE A SEAT!

The best for a rest...





01 Oakland Accent Chair

Embrace the luxurious feel of this beautifully soft accent chair featuring wooden feet and stylish brass stud and button detailing. Available in twelve colours and comes with a free scatter cushion.

£798.00
www.dfs.co.uk

02 Hamilton Sofa

Crafted from high-quality leather with a classic scroll arm design, this sofa combines comfort and style to give your home a timeless look. Available in a choice of fabrics.

From £999.99
www.dunelm.com

03 Mayfair Chair

For that all-out vintage chic look, this is the perfect choice. Every bit as opulent as the name suggests, the distressed castor legs and plush, deep buttoning offers low-maintenance elegance in abundance.

£225.00
www.next.co.uk

04 Chesterfield II Armchair

Create a classic look in your home with this beautifully crafted Chesterfield armchair, featuring an intricate button back detail and a classic shape, perfect for creating a timeless style in your living room.

£65.00
www.dunelm.com

05 Classic Chaise Petite

The classic chaise petite has a timeless design and makes an elegant addition to any bedroom or living-room space. The solid wood-turned feet with brass wheels finish off the classic look

From £649.00
www.marksand-spencer.com

06 Twee Large Sofa

For easy elegance, look no further than this Twee large sofa, where beautiful piped and scrolled detailing combine with luxurious padding

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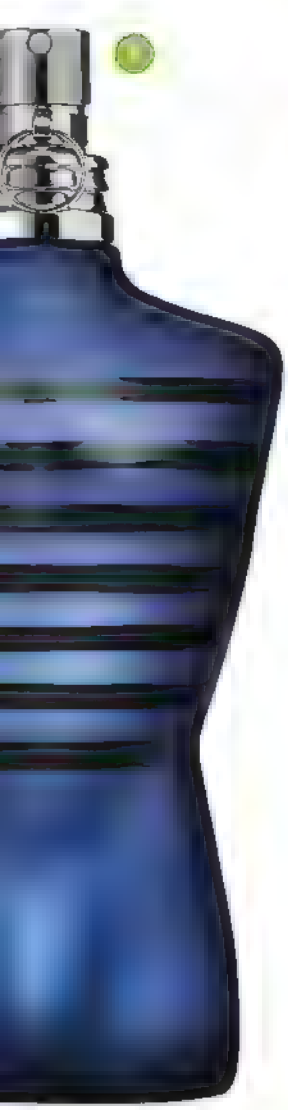

01 Jean Paul Gaultier Ultra Male
Jean Paul Gaultier has created a new intense Eau de Toilette a masculine fragrance with a modern approach
From £35.00
www.theperfumeshop.com

02 Viktor & Rolf Spicebomb Extreme
Revealing an explosion of heat the sparkling grapefruit top notes are enhanced by notes of pimento berries.
From £56.00
www.boots.com

03 007 Fragrance Seven
This new premium addition to the 007 Fragrance boasts carefully selected ingredients and a sleek appearance.
From £19.99
www.theperfumeshop.com

04 Prada Luna Rossa Sport
Prada Luna Rossa Sport evokes man's deepest emotions the night before his defining challenge, revealing the sensuality and sophistication within Prada's masculine world.
From £47.50
www.boots.com

05 Hugo Boss The Scent
A seductive fragrance that swathes the senses in sensuality with its arousing blend of essences.
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www.theperfumeshop.com

06 Issey Miyake Nuit d'Issey
A woody leathery, intense fragrance, a reinterpretation of Nuit d'Issey's theme.
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www.boots.com

07 Dior Savage
A radically fresh composition, dictated by a name that has the ring of a manifesto.
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That's Entertainment!

This month's hot new DVD, music and book releases .

DVD WATER BOYS (15)

At an international swim meet in St Petersburg, young Italian swimmer Massimo catches the eye of Russian reporter Vladimir. A relationship forms at a most breakneck speed and the men quickly fall in love. Things soon get complicated, however - not only by their strong cultural differences but also by Russia's newly passed anti-gay laws. Will their love survive the obstacles or are they destined to part?

The movie is available on DVD and on-demand from Monday 7 December.

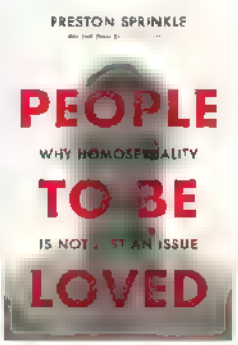
DVD TATTOO (15)

Set in the repressive Brazil of the 1970s, Tattoo follows the lives of men who refuse to live and love quietly. The most flamboyant of their group is unquestionably Clécio - a powerhouse of unapologetic energy and sexuality. When Cécio's lover brings home his sexy brother-in-law, Fininha - an 18-year-old policeman - Clécio falls in love and things quickly spiral out of control...

A heady mix of sex, nudity and drugs, with a whole lot of glitter thrown in, Tattoo is bold, daring, distinctive and sure to make an impression.

Out now.

BOOK PEOPLE TO BE LOVED: WHY HOMOSEXUALITY IS NOT JUST AN ISSUE by Preston Sprinkle



Christians who're confused by the homosexuality debate raging in the US are looking for resources that are based solidly on a deep study of what Scripture says about the issue. In People To Be Loved, Preston Sprinkle challenges those on all sides of the debate to consider what the Bible says, and how we should approach the topic of homosexuality in light of it.

In a manner that appeals to both scholarly and lay audiences alike, Preston contemplates difficult questions such as how the church should treat people struggling with same-sex attraction. Is same-sex attract on a product of biological or societal factors, or both? How should the church think about larger cultural issues such as gay marriage, gay pride, and whether intolerance towards LGBTs amounts to racism? How or if Christians should do business with LGBT persons and supportive companies?

Saying that the Bible condemns homosexuality is neither accurate nor the end of the debate. Those holding a traditional view still struggle to reconcile the Bible's prohibition of same-sex attraction with the message of radical unconditional grace. This book attempts to meet their need

MUSIC LOVE, SAX AND FLASHBACKS

by Fleur East

Runner-up in the 2014 series of The X Factor, Fleur East's debut studio album features hit single Sax, which reached No.3 in the UK singles chart. This album is sure to be a winner

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Reality TV: Who do you think has what it takes to win this year?

Yep, it's that time of year again, when the UK's three biggest Reality TV shows go head-to-head for votes and viewing figures We take a look at the top three favourites to win The X Factor, Strictly Come Dancing and I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! We've also listed the bookies odds, which are correct at the time of going to print. Oh, and our Editor's chosen his favourites too!

The X Factor

Louisa Johnson

She s the bookies favourite and from what we ve seen so far, we're not surprised!

Reggie n Bollie

Some are calling them the cheesy joke act of 2015, but we love them!

Che Chesterman

H s audition blew us away, so we're not surprised to see him as a top favourite to win!

Strictly Come Dancing

Jay McGuiness

The Wanted star Jay certain y surprised us with his dance moves. But can he win?

Georgia May Foote

The Corrie star has been doing amazing y well throughout - we can see her in the final

Anita Rani

TV presenter Anita is great on her feet, but is she one of your favourites?

I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!

Vicky Pattison

Geordie Shore star Vicky has everyone's tongues wagging But she s not our fave

George Shelley

The Union J beauty is our favourite to win Let s just hope that he sticks it out!

Ferne McCann

We're surprised to still see TOWIE s Ferne in the jungle and not back home in Essex

East is East: Discovering gay

Vietnam

From the moment we stepped off the plane, we realised this was going to be no ordinary holiday. It was our belated honeymoon and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend three weeks in Vietnam and Cambodia, two countries neither of us had previously visited.

First stop Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, and a full-scale assault on the senses. As soon as you set foot out of the hotel, you're in danger of quite literally being swept off your feet by cars and swarms of motorbikes, most of which regard traffic lights and zebra crossings with disdain. It's a case of taking your life in your hands and slowly and confidently letting the traffic drive around you.

Hanoi is a feast for the eyes - mustard-hued colonial architecture, newlyweds posing for photos by tranquil Hoan Kiem Lake, and the sounds, smells and sights of the bustling Old Quarter.

Homosexuality is legal in Vietnam, although it's regarded as something of a social oddity. We found only one gay bar in Hanoi - Bar GC, or Golden Cock! There were relatively few locals in the bar, mainly due to the fact that most Vietnamese men are cornered into marriage and raising a family. Consequently, they tend to avoid public spots and resort to online apps to meet guys. If openly gay Vietnamese men were rare, lesbians were even less visible.

After a two-day cruise on a ginger junk boat in Halong Bay and an overnight train journey to the Imperial City of Hue, we travelled to Hoi An, on Vietnam's central coast. Of all the places we visited, this small waterside town had the most old-world charm and character. Chinese lanterns adorned narrow streets with wooden-fronted shophouses. It's the only place in Vietnam where traffic is banned in the town centre.

We spent many an hour having our feet massaged, negotiating made-to-measure suits with local tailors and people-watching from the gay-friendly Q Bar.

After the tranquillity of our five days in Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City turned out to be a thriving and chaotic metropolis. This city, with more than eight million inhabitants, is just as grand, flashy and, in some parts, seedy as the musical Miss Saigon suggests. There is splendid architecture, including Notre Dame Cathedral, the imposing General Post Office and the Opera House. Not surprisingly, so many of the city's attractions reflect its war-torn past. The War Remnants Museum contains many exhibits demonstrating the horrors of modern warfare. The visit provided an excellent introduction to our excursion to the Cu Chi tunnels - the results of the Vietcong literally digging themselves out of harm's way to avoid American attempts to neutralise them. The multilevel tunnel complexes include weapons, meeting rooms, command centres and basic hospitals. A short part of the tunnel remains for tourists to explore.

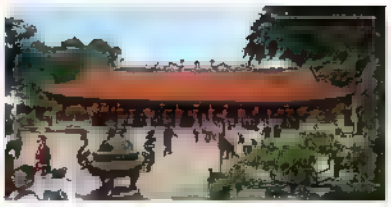
Like shopping centres, gay clubs around the world can appear the same, with ubiquitous lighting and music. Not so Republic, a small, gay club on the second floor of a nondescript building, with a predominantly Vietnamese crowd enjoying great music, beer and cocktails. The feather boa lampshades, kitsch decor and friendly locals made for a truly Vietnamese gay night.

Cambodia

Just as Vietnam has changed so much in the face of war, so too has Cambodia. Decades of terror and a genocide that killed two to three million people left the country traumatised, but increased stability has attracted tourists from across the world.

Like in Vietnam, homosexuality is legal in Cambodia, although it isn't totally socially acceptable. In 2007, Hun Sen, the longstanding Prime Minister, announced that his adoptive daughter was lesbian and promptly disowned her. But times are changing: the widely respected King Sihanook has shown support for gay marriage, and our own honeymoon was regarded as a cause for celebration and special treatment in the hotels we stayed in.

We flew from Vietnam into the capital, Phomn



friendly Vietnam & Cambodia

Penh, where there are three must-see sights. There s the splendid Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, reminiscent of the set of The King And I. More harrowing but equally compelling s S21, a former high school-turned-prison where anyone suspected of colluding against Pol Pot's brutal regime was tortured. They were then sent in trucks to the Chueng Ek Killing Fields, where they were executed and buried in mass graves. The seven-storey monument contains thousands of skulls, bones and remnants of clothing from the victims of the Khumer Rouge reign of terror.

Fascinating as these sights are, Phomn Penh only needs a couple of days, especially as the high levels of street crime don't make it the safest of cities at night. There are some friendly gay venues, our favourite spots were the Blue Chip Bar and The Heart of Darkness club popular with tourists and locals at weekends.

We ended our honeymoon in Siem Reap, which attracts millions of visitors a year to nearby Angkor Wat, the single largest religious monument in the world. We got up at 4.30am to see this spectacular complex of temples at sunrise. Set in dense jungle a few miles from Siem Reap, it really is one of the wonders of the world.

Siem Reap itself is a relatively small and bustling city, with a thriving gay scene located in the alleyways and narrow streets around the Old Market. Like most places in Cambodia, the bars in Siem Reap offer cheap drinks and friendly hospitality. A number, like Linga Bar and Barcode, also have onsite spas offering massages - and, no doubt, happy endings. Gay-friendly Miss Wongs was our favourite, a 1930s cocktail bar with Shanghai décor.

Vietnam and Cambodia don't have the gay scenes of home, but as long as you're armed with a sense of adventure and wear a smile on your face, you're sure to have an amazing and gay-friendly time.

TRAVEL TIPS

- Best times to go are September to December and March and April, thus avoiding the hottest and wettest times of year.
- Travel light but take an umbrella, poncho, insect repellent, bite cream and always drink bottled water.
- Be prepared to haggle in local shops and with cyclo and tuk tuk drivers.
- You don't need a visa for a stay of less than 15 days in Vietnam. You can buy your visa to gain entry to Cambodia at the airport for $30. You will need a passport photo.
- Away from the beach bare shoulders and skimpy shorts are frowned upon and are strictly prohibited in sacred places.

GAY LISTINGS

VIETNAM

Hanoi

Bar GC, 5 Bao Khauh Street (just west of Hoan Kiem Lake)

Hoi An

Q Bar, 94 D Nguyen Thai Hoc (gay owned and gay friendly)

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh

Blue Chip Bar 35 Street 178 (by the National Museum)

The Heart of Darkness Club 26 Street 51 Pasteur.

Siem Reap

Linga Bar and Spa, Pub Street Alley (near the Old Market)

Miss Wong Bar, The Lane, Between streets 7 & 8 Old Market

Barcode New Street A

Hip Hop Club (across the river, gay friendly)

Steve and Ian's honeymoon was arranged by Emma Collis at Flight Centre, New Street, Birmingham

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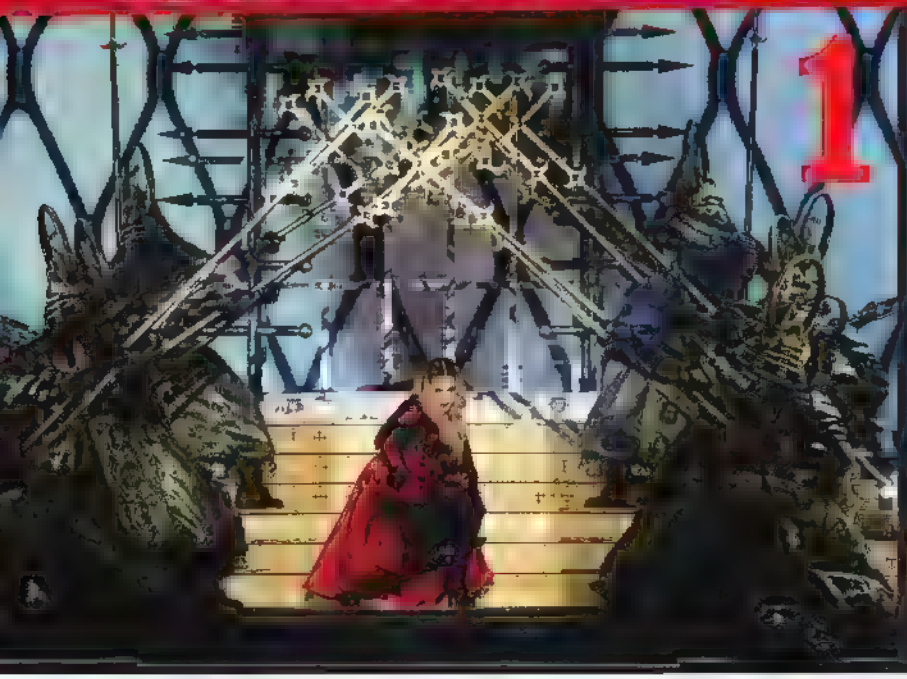
hotlist

THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO



1 MADONNA

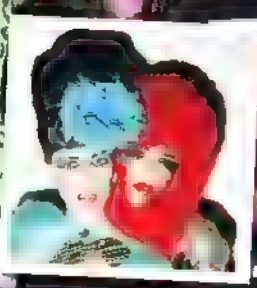
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Wed 16 December

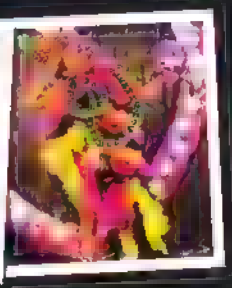
LGBT favourite Madonna is back in Birmingham this month as part of her UK tour. Not surprisingly named by Time as one of the most powerful women of the past century, Madonna has been recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the best-selling female recording artist of all time, having sold in excess of a staggering 300million records worldwide. What's more, in 2008, Billboard ranked her second only to The Beatles when it came to record sales. Her hits are plentiful, from Like A Virgin and Papa Don't Preach to Hung Up and 4 Minutes. And given her penchant for courting controversy as well as making chart-topping music, it's fair to assume there's plenty of life in the old dog yet.

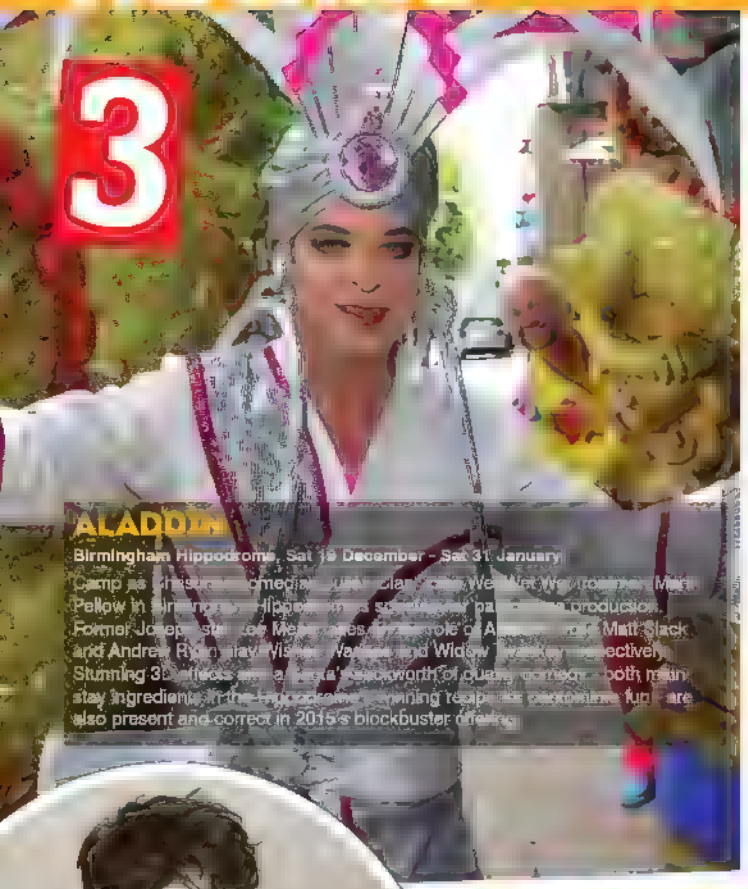
2 DIRTY GROTTO

The REP Theatre, Birmingham, Thurs 10 - Sat 19 December

Six fabulous and wickedly funny shows of tinseled brilliance that set out to entertain and titillate. From comedy to cabaret, each show has its own dress code (to which you're encouraged to adhere). The highlight is London club night Sink The Pink, featuring a crazy, colourful club collective of gender-bending drag queen divas.







3 ALADDIN

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 13 December - Sat 31 January

Camp as Christmas comedian [illegible] Wet Wet Wet frontman Marti Pellow in Birmingham Hippodrome's [illegible] production. Former Jonathan Ross Show regular Matt Slack and Andrew Ryan play Wishee Washee and Widow Twankey respectively. Stunning 3D effects, a ton's worth of glitter, corny jokes both mainly stay ingredients in the [illegible] pantomime fun are also present and correct in 2015's blockbuster offering.

5 SUZI RUFFELL

The Glee Club, Birmingham
Wed 9 - Sun 13 December

4 [illegible] CHRISTMAS

mac, Birmingham, Fri 18 & Sun 20 December

The gay community's favourite Kings Heath housewife makes a welcome return, lighting up the festive season like a great big flashing Christmas tree. As well as containing more jokes than you'd find in an oversized yuletide gag-bag (does such a thing actually exist?), Barbara's festive shows usually feature a Christmas tombola and raffle, no shortage of mince pies, and even the odd special guest or two. And we have no reason whatsoever to imagine that this year's offering will be any different!

6 HAIRSPRAY

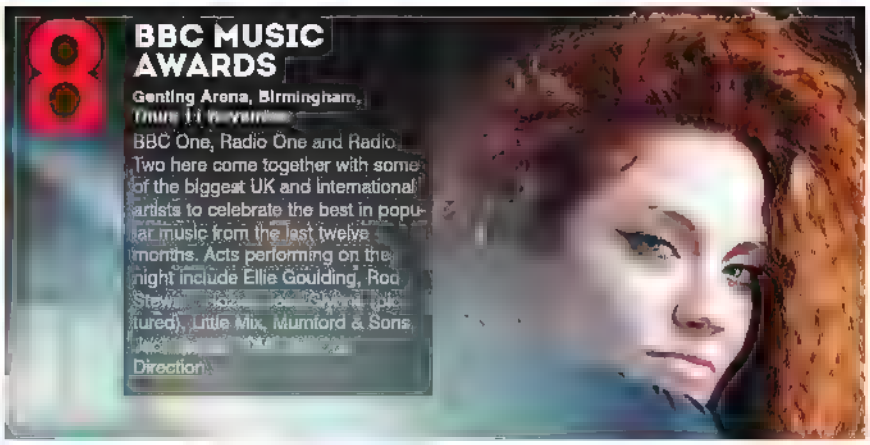
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Mon 14 December - Sat 2 January

This new production of the smash-hit musical comedy stars openly gay Layton Williams, Freya Sutton, Tony Maudsley, Peter Duncan and Claire Sweeney. Set in 1962 and boasting a jukebox worth of '60s-style dance music and 'downtown' rhythm and blues, Hairspray tells the story of a chubby teenager who enjoys an overnight rise to stardom when she earns the chance to appear on a local TV dance show.

DOREEN'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER

mac, Birmingham, Sat 19 December

David Tristram's five-minute viral mockumentary about benefit scrounger Doreen has spawned this sure-to-be-fantastic Christmas show.



BBC MUSIC AWARDS

Genting Arena, Birmingham, [illegible]

BBC One, Radio One and Radio Two here come together with some of the biggest UK and international artists to celebrate the best in popular music from the last twelve months. Acts performing on the night include Ellie Goulding, Rod Stewart, [illegible] (pictured), Little Mix, Mumford & Sons, [illegible] Direction.

RAINBOW VOICES

All Saints Centre, Kings Heath, Birmingham, Sat 5 December

Midlands LGBT choir Rainbow Voices make a welcome return to present their Christmas concert. Last year's gig was a sell-out, so patrons are advised to get their tickets booked early via tickets@rainbow-voices.org.uk or from any member.

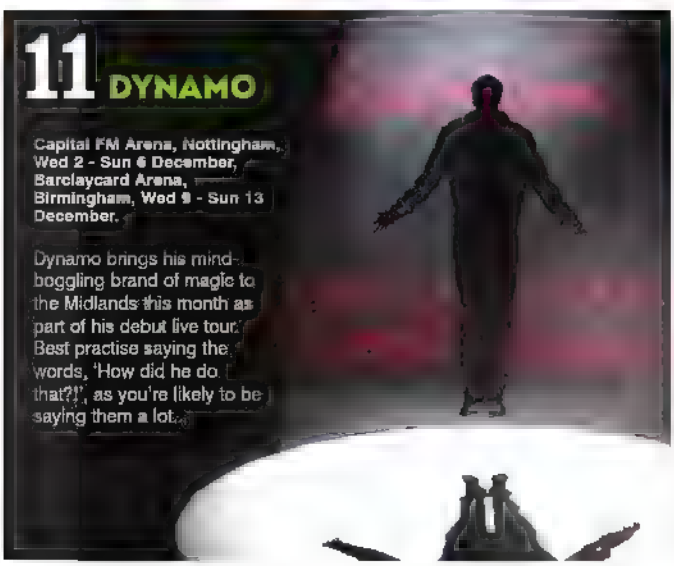
Doors open at 6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start. Refreshments are available and children are welcome, free or at a reduced price. A donation will be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

10 CLOTHES SHOW LIVE

NEC, Birmingham, Fri 4 - Tues 8 Dec

The UK's biggest fashion and beauty event is back, complete with high street and designer brands, big musical acts and celebrity appearances.

This year's show features performances by Ella Eyre, Charli XCX and Rae Morris. Clothing brands, such as House of CB, Oasis and Pringle, and hair and beauty brands like Rimmel, Ciate and Lee Stafford will also be in attendance.



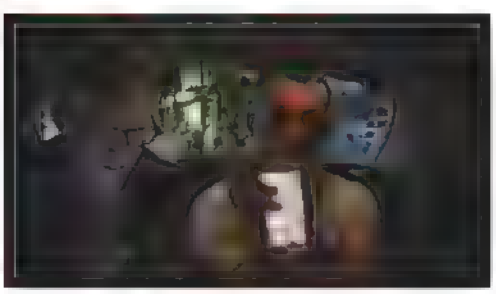
11 DYNAMO

Capital FM Arena, Nottingham, Wed 2 - Sun 6 December, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, Wed 9 - Sun 13 December.

Dynamo brings his mind-boggling brand of magic to the Midlands this month as part of his debut live tour. Best practise saying the words, 'How did he do that?!', as you're likely to be saying them a lot.

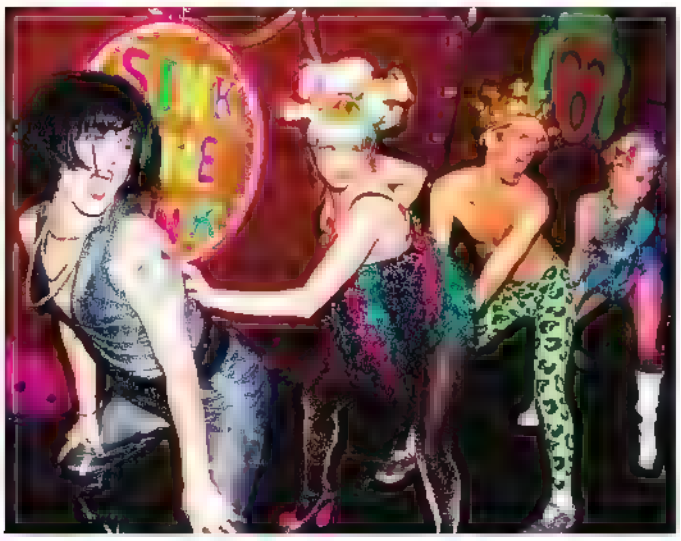
12 CHEMSEX

Film - Cert 18



We're not just talking Viagra here. Chemsex is the term used to describe the use of drugs in a sexual context. It's a phenomenon that has particularly blighted the gay community, as young men become increasingly dependent on chemically fuelled group sex sessions which, apparently, can go on for days. This British documentary uncovers some of the secrets

WIN! A pair of tickets for Dirty Grotto!



Arriving at Birmingham's REP Theatre this month is Dirty Grotto, a collection of six fabulous and wickedly funny shows of tinseled brilliance.

The shows (from Thursday 10 to Saturday 19 December) range from comedy to cabaret, with each one boasting its very own dress code - to which you're enthusiastically encouraged to adhere!

We've teamed up with The REP to give one lucky Midlands Zone reader the chance to win a pair of tickets to one of Dirty Grotto's highlights - Sink The Pink on Friday 18 December!

Sink The Pink are a London-based 'crazy colourful club collective' of gender-bending drag queen divas. Expect high-energy dance routines, the best in pop and disco, tranny Mariah Carey and an offensive number of home-made tinsel outfits.

You're encouraged to dress 'camply fabulous' and are warned that if you don't, you'll probably regret it.

To enter this competition, simply answer the following question at www.midlandszone.co.uk

Where is club night Sink the Pink usually held?
(A) London
(B) Liverpool
(C) Manchester

Good luck!

To enter, simply visit www.midlandszone.co.uk before Wednesday 16 December

WIN! Walsall Pride Masquerade Winter Ball tickets!

Walsall Pride is next month throwing a Masquerade Winter Ball (Friday 8 January) to raise funds for the town's annual LGBT festival

The event, which takes place at Arbor Lights, features a headline performance from drag troupe The Supreme Fabulettes, who featured on truTV show The Drag Queens Of London. Other entertainment on the night comes from Ego Dance, with music provided by hostess and DJ, Glamour.

Tickets for the event cost £10, include a buffet, free travel and entry to the after-party, and are available from Arbor Lights, The Red Lion and The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall.

We've teamed up with the event's organisers to give two lucky Midlands Zone readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

To enter our competition, visit www.midlandszone.co.uk before Sunday 3 January 2016.

Good luck!

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

OUT

DECEMBER 2015

NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENTS GALORE

ACROSS THE MIDLANDS GAY SCENE

THE BOSTON
NORTHAMPTON

LARGE BEER GARDEN & SMOKING TERRACE

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EVERY WED 9PM - 3AM FREE ENTRY

KARAOKE WITH DANNY

'HAPPY HOUR' FROM 8PM-11PM
(MOST DRINKS ONLY £2.50)

feat. Danny

EVERY FRI 9PM - 4:30AM

PINK POUNDER!

£8 ENTRY, £1 DRINKS ALL NIGHT!
INCLUDES ALL DRAUGHTS, SPIRITS & BOTTLES
DANCE, POP, R&B, CHART, CHEESE!

feat. DJ Snuckles

EVERY SAT 9PM - 6AM

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FREE ENTRY B4 11PM
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DJ CILLA P PLAYING THE BEST CHART, DANCE, POP AND HOUSE

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2-4-1 COCKTAILS + PITCHERS FROM **£6!**

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NYE PARTY

THU 31ST DEC
9PM - 6AM!

MUSIC FROM DJ CILLA + CABARET WITH 'CANDY C' FROM 11PM
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Bring in 2016 with **NEW YEAR'S EVE** parties across the Midlands gay scene!

It's that time of year again where we wave good bye to this year, but welcome in the next. That's right, it's time for New Year's Eve!

At gay bars and clubs across the Midlands gay scene, there's plenty of choice for you to do the big countdown and sing Auld Lang Syne with your mates! Check our diary for listings

[illegible] - [illegible]

CHRISTMAS PARTIES through out Birmingham's gay scene

Ho Ho Ho! It's Christmas, and with it comes a lot of partying!

Throughout Birmingham's gay scene there's plenty of festive parties to get you going throughout December. From Staff Shows to lots of cabaret and drag, you certainly won't be bored. If you're bored of spending time with the family over Christmas, then what better excuse? Check out our diary for all this and more. That just leaves us to say from all at Midlands Zone, Merry Christmas!

[illegible] - [illegible]

TINCHY STRYDER DJ set Wolverhampton gay venue

Wolverhampton gay club Gorgeous is this month hosting a DJ set by British rapper Tinchy Stryder.

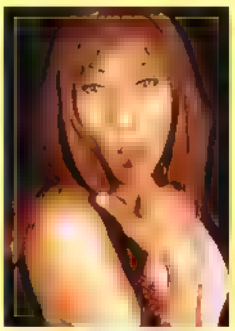
The event takes place on Saturday 12 December at the recently relocated venue with tickets selling quickly already.

Standard tickets are just £5 including queue jump. Whilst you can upgrade for £40 to include a six-seater VIP booth. For £10 per person, become a VIP for the night with access to the VIP lounge and a glass of bubbly on arrival.

Tickets are now on sale from www.theticketselers.co.uk. Grab yours now!

[illegible] - [illegible]

FRIDAY NIGHT CABARET every week at Birmingham bar



If you're out on a Friday night and looking for great cabaret to enjoy, look no further than Birmingham's Village Inn.

Kicking off the venue's December line-up is Titti La Camp on Friday the 4th. The following week sees Sandra, the Whore of Hampstead Heath dropping in, with a double whammy of Glitter Lips and Lola Lasagne appearing on Friday the 18th with an epic Christmas Special. Enjoy guys and gals!

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

DOUBLE CABARET at Shrewsbury's C:21

For all you cabaret fans, Shrewsbury venue C:21 is hosting two nights of cabaret this month, with some great names!

The first up is the Drag With No Name on Monday 7 December, whilst back once again with their epic Christmas show, it's the award-winning drag duo, Glitter Lips!

C:21 - [illegible]

XXL at The Core is the biggest men-only club night in the Midlands

Men-only club night XXL returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!

Taking place on the third Friday of every month (18 December), the popular clubbing event sees men from across the Midlands come out to play and party.

The London club night's Midlands event features XXL's resident DJ, Christian M, playing the best hits and remixes to get the dancefloor packed.

And be sure to check out the dark room upstairs while you're there! Have fun, guys!

[illegible] - [illegible]

MONDAY

December 7 14 21 28

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am
Missing Bar

CABARET WITH BAGA CHIPZ Every Monday night head down to the Village Inn for a night of fun cabaret with the incredible Baga Chipz It's not to be missed!
The Village Inn

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry
Nightingale Club

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly drink offers with DJ M[illegible]
Bar Jester

OUTSKIRTS 1st & 3rd Monday month
Bar Jester

POUNDED Come [illegible] Pounded from [illegible]
Sidewalk

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) ***Mon 4 Dec*** – Live cabaret with Drag With No Name ***Mon 21 Dec*** – Glitter Lips Christmas Special Free admission before midnight and just £3 after
C:21, Shrewsbury

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am Student night Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with DJ Lee Edward
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL NIGHT with Ka[illegible]
Three Furnaces, Telford

GET THE PARTY STARTED [illegible] Open 10p[illegible]
Gossip, Stoke on Trent

[illegible] til drinks £1.50
Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2 [illegible] for a quiet drink [illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

DISCO 7pm-midnight
New Foresters, Nottingham

TUESDAY

December 1 8 15 22 29

90'S NIGHT – Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am
Nightingale Club

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS – Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR With your host karaoke temptress Gavina Party starts at 9pm till late
[illegible]

OPEN YOUR SNATCH Songs, Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
The Village Inn

TUNE UP TUESDAY [illegible] with Baby G Happy [illegible] 2a[illegible] Oj[illegible]
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

BIG TUESDAY NIGHT PARTY [illegible]

The Lion Bar & Club Walsall

CAMP QUIZ With [illegible]
Three Furnaces, Telford

[illegible] ight with D[illegible] g from pop &
Velvet, Worcester

[illegible] A[illegible] to suit everyone
Brewery Tap, Worcester

SKYE'S PARTY NIGHT DJ and hostess 5pm 11pm
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

TWISTED TUESDAYS H[illegible] Sherry Darling [illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 [illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

[illegible] F[illegible]
New Foresters, Nottingham

GAMES NIGHT Free Pool and Nintend[illegible]
Dover Castle, Leicester

[illegible]

December 2 9 16 23 30

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS – Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery **Missing Bar**

KILLER KARAOKE – with Charlotte the Harlotte
The Village Inn

MADONNA AFTER PARTY [illegible] ***Dec*** Following Madonna's sell out Birmingham show, head to Eden's after party with No.1 Maodnna tribute act Melissa Totten!
Eden

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shake [illegible] feathers at Sidewalks new cocktail me[illegible]
Sidewalk

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL Free Pool Open 7 11pm
The Fox

[illegible] H[illegible] Hour until 2am [illegible]
Bar Jester

WEDNESDAY LINE Line Dancing every Wed night
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

DISCO & DJ with Gil[illegible] am
Rainbows, Coventry

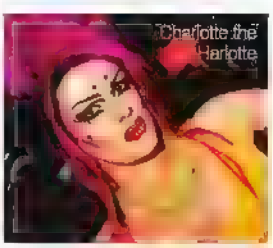
[illegible] ve Dus drinks promotions Fre[illegible]
Three Furnaces, Telford

WACKY WEDNESDAYS K[illegible] games Open 4pm-mid[illegible]
Rainbows Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

KARAOKE 9pm til 3am. £2 drinks from 8pm til 11pm Free Entry
The Boston, Northampton

[illegible] 2am Drinks [illegible]
New Foresters, Nottingham



[illegible]

December [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS – Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

CHARLIE HIDES ***Thurs 3 Dec*** Hilarious stage show with celebrity impersonations!
Eden

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm.
Nightingale Club

TANGO THURSDAYS with Marty Happy Hour 12noon-2am
The Village Inn

DJ NIKKI PARTY NIGHT ***Thurs 24 Dec*** Christmas Eve party with DJ Nikki
Eden

HOLLYWOOD HOMOS NYE ***Thurs 31 Dec*** Red carpet and Champagne arrival DJ, free entry, cheap drinks
Sidewalk

I <3 THE 90S From 8pm with DJ Dan Doors open from 2pm.
Eden

LA VOIX ***Thurs 10 Dec*** A night of cabaret with the BGT semi-finalist
Eden

LAQUISHA JONZ ***Thurs 17 Dec*** Live cabaret with Laquisha Jonz
Eden

NYE ***Thurs 31 Dec*** Open unt[illegible] 6am with free entry!
M[illegible]

NYE ***Thurs 31 Dec*** Birmingham's biggest New Year's Eve party
The Nightingale

NYE ***Thurs 31 Dec*** New Years Eve party with DJs Dan & Nikki!
Eden

POUNDED £5 in & drinks from £1
Nightingale Club

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1.20 bombs and great music! **Missing**

WEST MIDLANDS

12.01 with DJ James Levett Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
Gorgeous, Wolves

THE KARAOKE LOUNGE Free entry Big value drinks With DJ Zac
The Lion, Walsall

DISCO & DJ A[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

NYE Music from DJ Cilla & cabaret with Candy C
The Boston, Northampton

THE BIGGEST GAY
MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

FREE ENTRY BEFORE MIDNIGHT!
10PM-3AM

MON 7 DEC
DRAG WITH NO NAME

MON 21 DEC
GLITTER LIPS

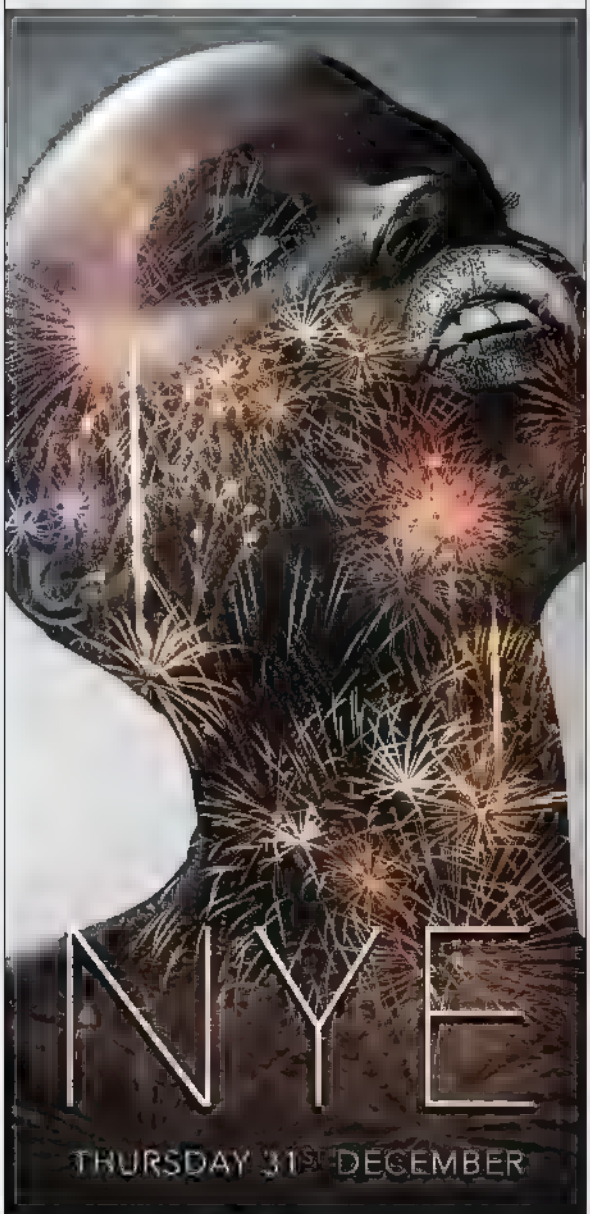
Fabulous

PLUS: HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM // DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT

C:21

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE. TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK

THE LOFT LOUNGE



loft.birmingham
@loftlounge2
loftbirmingham
0121 622 2444

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.
The Loft Lounge

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES DJ Parm takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics house R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too.
Sidewalk

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours.
[illegible]

SING STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikk.
Eden Bar

FREAKY FRIDAY Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. ***Fri 4 Dec*** Titti La Camp. ***Fri 11 Dec*** Sandra. ***Fri 18 Dec*** Glitter Lips & Lola Lasagne Christmas Special.
The Village Inn

INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2.
Nightingale Club

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James.
[illegible]

LBR With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 6am every Friday.
The Village Inn

LIP GLOSS - ***Fri 4 Dec*** - With host Divine Miss M. Live Halloween entertainment from Miss Trixie Cummore, strippers, topless waiter, buffet and raffle. Every first Friday of the month.
[illegible]

MIDSBEARS - ***Fri 18 Dec*** - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers with special drinks offers all night.
Eden Bar

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed.
Nightingale Club

SAATHI - ***Fri 18 Dec*** - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra.
Nightingale Club

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikk every Friday - your chance to win cash!
Eden Bar

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites.
The Loft Lounge

XXL - ***Fri 18 Dec*** - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month.

The Core Club

FUNK'D UP [illegible]

Club Chic

KARAOKE Come and [illegible]

The Fox

RETRO FRIDAY F[illegible]

Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

YOLO! Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. Earlybird drinks from £1.50 with free entry before 11pm. 10:30pm - 5:30am.
Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton

[illegible]

The Lion, Walsall

TV PARTY NIGHT A Men's N[illegible]

The Greenhouse, Darlaston

CLUB [illegible]

The Three Furnaces, Telford

[illegible] ENTRY [illegible]

Rainbows, Coventry

FRIDAY SOCIAL [illegible]

The Bell, Stourbridge

[illegible]

The White Hart, Wolverhampton

START THE WEEKEND Free adm[illegible]

Pink, Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY A ful[illegible]

Brewery Tap, Worcester

EAST MIDLANDS

PINK POUNDER - Every Friday night with DJ Snuckies. £8 entry, £1 drinks. Open 9pm-4.30am.
The Boston, Northampton

CLUB NIGHT with DJ Ro[illegible]

Helsinki, Leicester

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s
Eden Bar

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
Missing

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors 3 DJs Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground
The Village Inn

[illegible] CABARET - *Sat 26 Dec* - with Miss Marty
The Village Inn

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
Nightingale Club

CHRISTMAS PARTY - *Sat 19 Dec* - Christmas Party featuring live cabaret from La Voix, Danny Beard and Vicki Vivacious
Eden

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm
Nightingale Club

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic, plus music from across the decades
Missing

KATIE PRICE - *Sat 5 Dec* - Live PA and meet and greet with Katie Price
The Nightingale

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday
The Village Inn

MORRISSEY DISCO - *Sat 12 Dec* - A great night out for all
Eden

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial
Eden

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm.
The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ, playing the best of everything
Sidewalk

[illegible] WINTER WONDERLAND - *Sat 26 Dec* - Mulled wine, Christmas cocktails, DJ, free entry and cheap drinks
Sidewalk

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4
Nightingale Club

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Ever[illegible]
Club Chic

FABULOUS SATURDAYS [illegible] club and M[illegible] [illegible] music
The Core Club

DJ PARTY NIGHT [illegible]
The Fox

#JUST SAYING [illegible] mood wi[illegible] Bar dan[illegible] Hour un[illegible] 2a[illegible] very late
Bar Jester

KARAOKE [illegible]
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

SLAG 10pm-6am. Earlybird drinks from £1.50. DJs Paul Bryant, James Levett & Josh B. Plus weekly guests
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

TINCHY STRYDER - *Sat 12 Dec* - Amazing DJ set with the chart-topping rapper Tinchy Stryder at the new Gorgeous club
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

BIG NIGHT OUT B[illegible]
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos un[illegible] 3.45. Free entry bef[illegible]
The Three Furnaces, Telford

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT [illegible] Open midday 4pm &[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

INCLUSION with DJ[illegible] Birmingham & UK D[illegible]
The Bell, Stourbridge

NOT TO MISS Free adm[illegible]
Pink, Stoke on Trent

WEEKLY CABARET with DJ Skyl[illegible] Cabaret at 12.30am. Open late
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT 10pm til 6am. Free entry before 11pm, £3 before 1am and £5 after. **The Boston, Northampton**

CLUB NIGHT A[illegible] midnight £[illegible]
Helsinki, Leicester

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

[illegible] STAR SUPERSTAR WITH DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday
Eden Bar

LOCAL CABARET with Charlotte the Harlotte and guests
The Village Inn

STAFF SHOW - *Sun 27 Dec* - A great night of fun with the Village Inn staff show!
The Village Inn

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny
Missing Bar

STAFF SHOW - *Sun 27 Dec* - A great night of fun with the Missing staff show!
Missing

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. **The Loft Lounge**

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER [illegible]

Sidewalk

CHILL OUT Look out for the [illegible]
The Fox

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY [illegible] Happy Hour until 2[illegible] 10pm[illegible]
Bar Jester

THREE COURSE LUNCH only [illegible]
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4am. Fun & Games, Karaoke, Prizes and all round mayhem. Drinks from £2
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL OUT [illegible]he part,
Rainbows, Coventry

THE PARTY LOUNGE R[illegible] thi[illegible] Drag host and party D[illegible]
Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

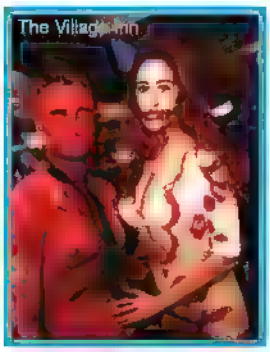
KARAOKE & DJ A[illegible] fun wi[illegible] hos
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

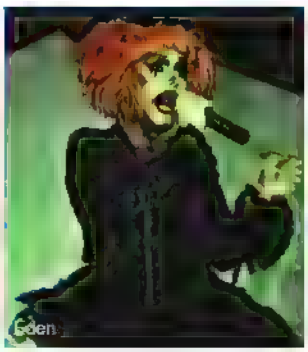
EAST MIDLANDS

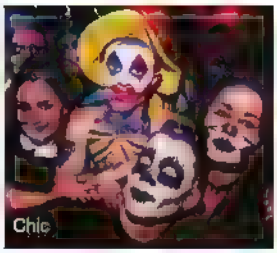
[illegible] CLUB [illegible]
Rainbow & Dove, Leicester

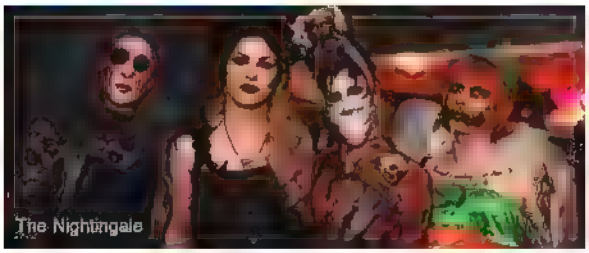
A spooky Halloween in **Birmingham's Gay Village**!

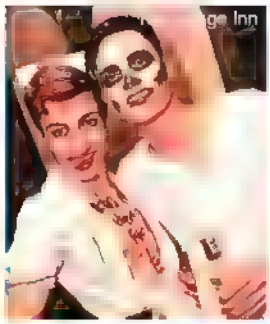
More great photos on facebook
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk





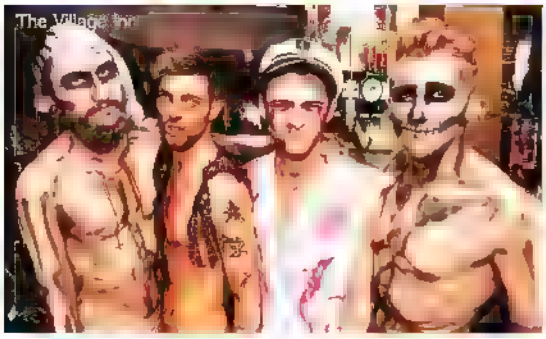






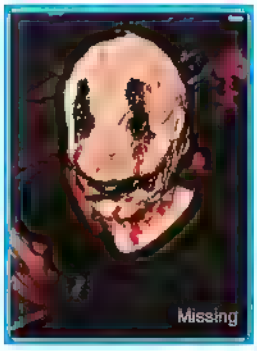
Pictures by Laura Byrne

Eden



Equator

Eden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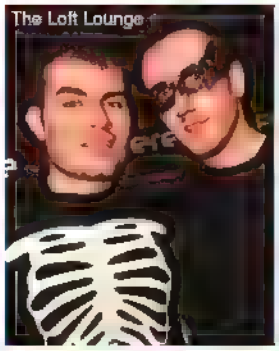
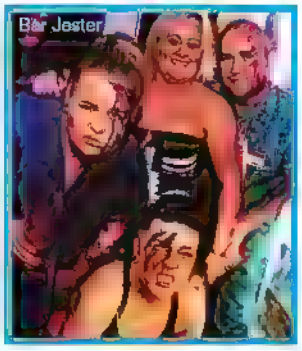
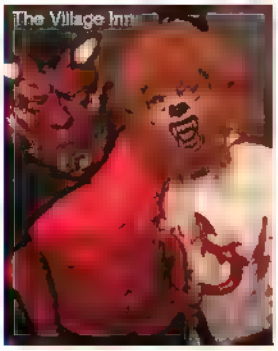
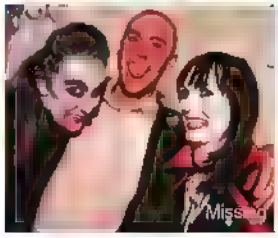
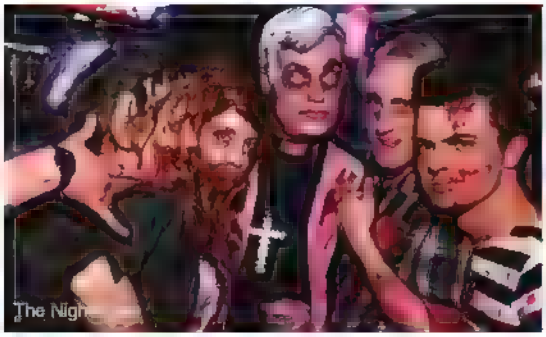

The Loft Lounge


Bar Jester



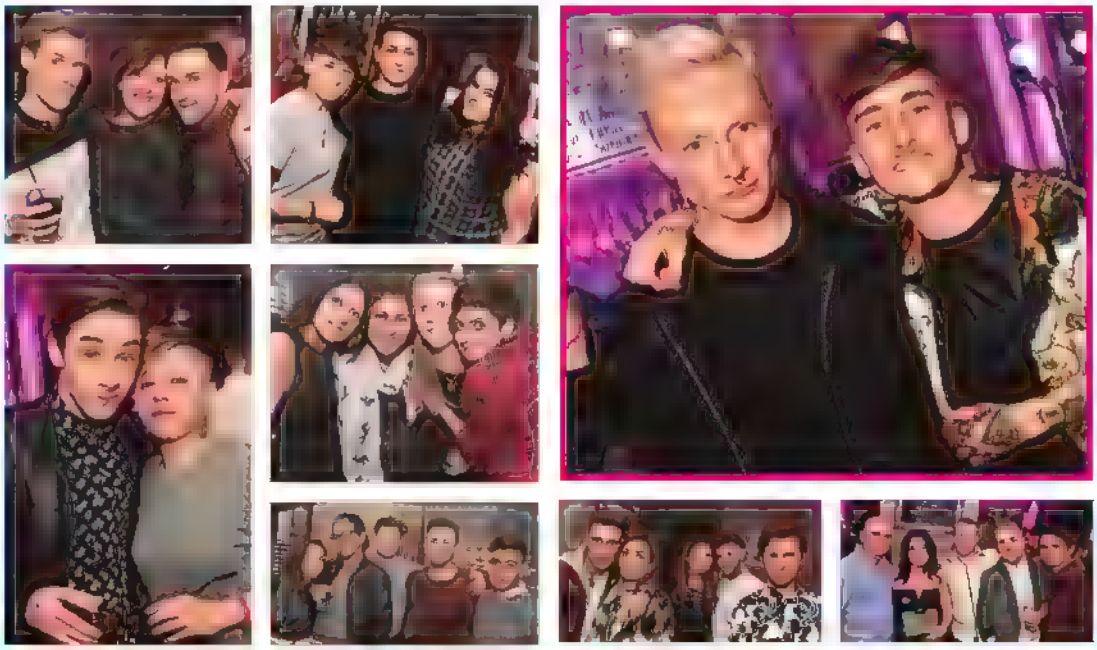


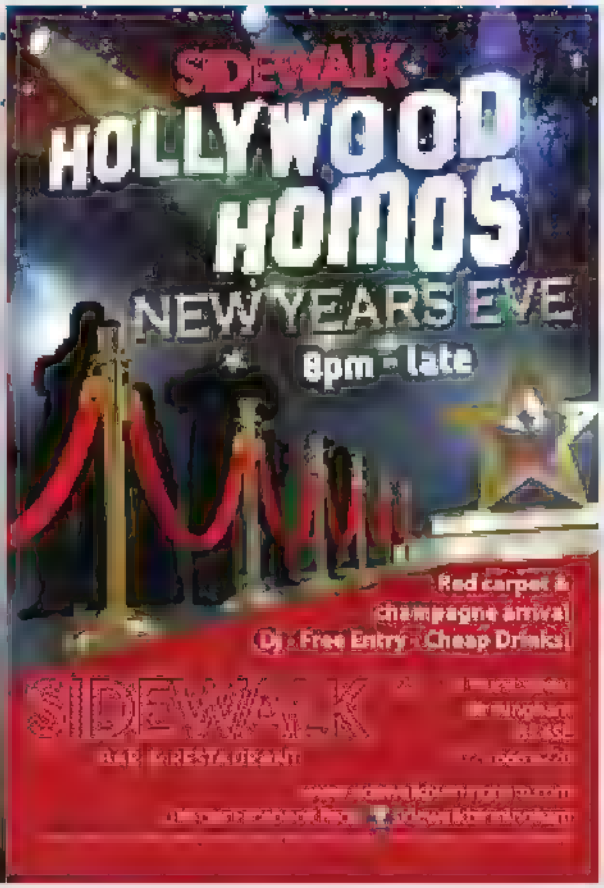
The Nightingale



Fox

Sidewalk: It's a great place to make new friends!





Sponsored by

Coors LIGHT

TINCHY STRYDER

DJ SET

SATURDAY

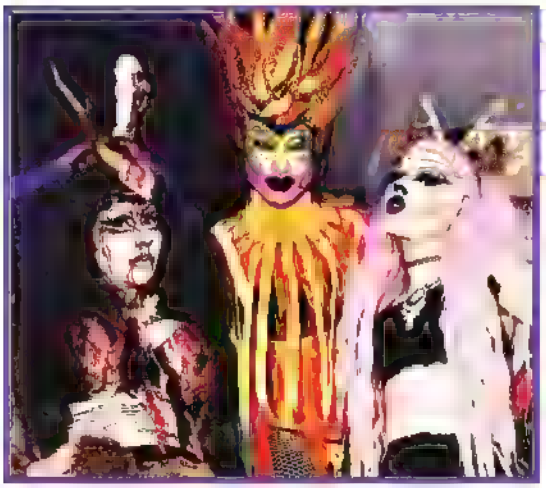
12TH DECEMBER

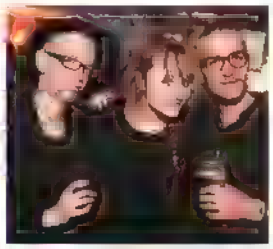
GORGEOUS

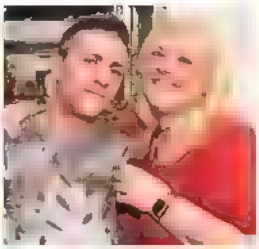
GORGEOUS NIGHTCLUB | SCHOOL STREET | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 4LF,

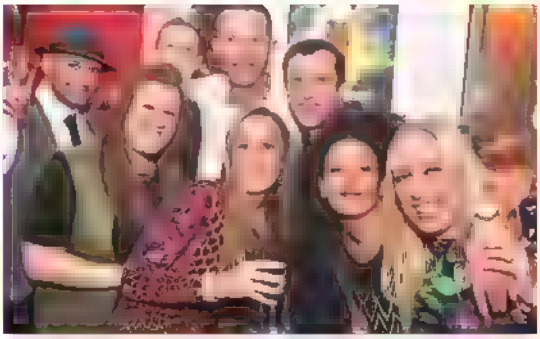
GORGEOUSWTON | GORGEOUSNIGHTCLUB | WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK

Top nights out with Twiggy at Brum's **Missing Bar**!









More great photos on **facebook**
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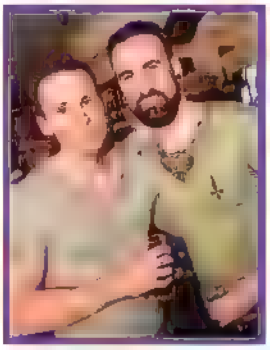
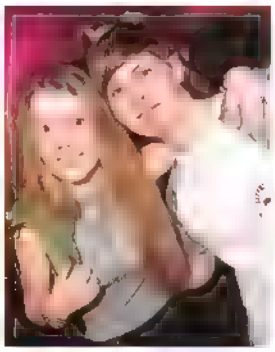
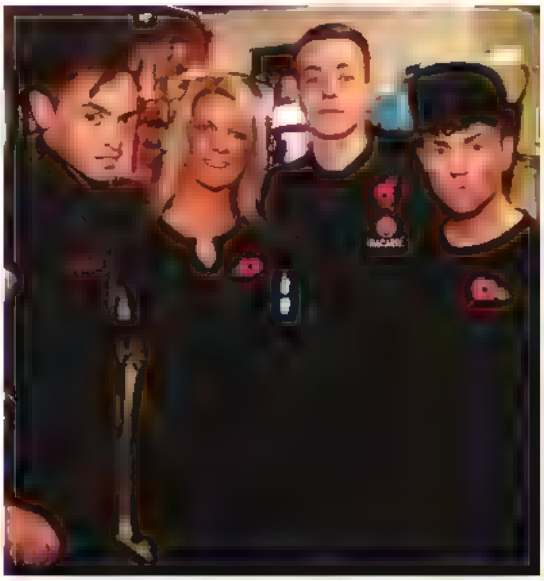


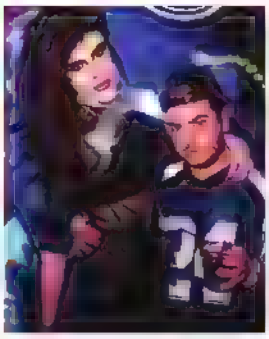




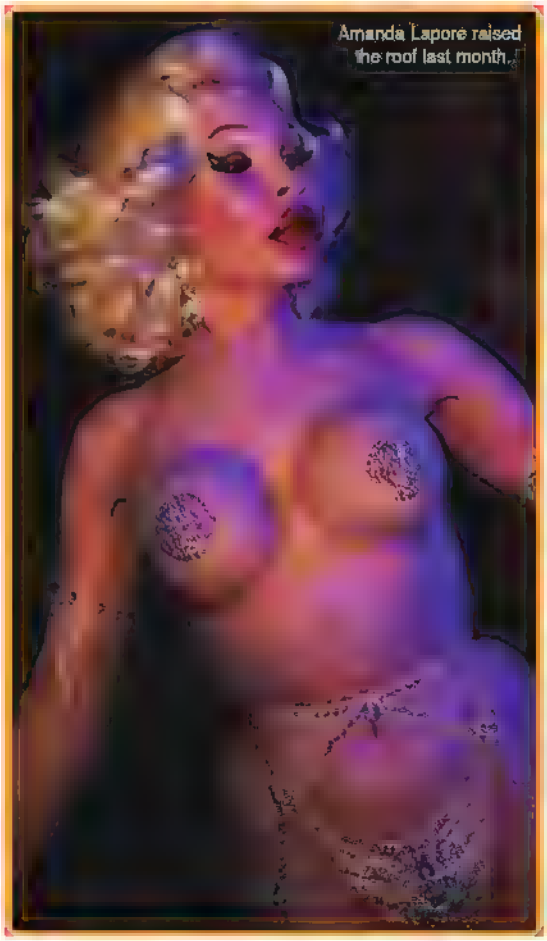
Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Missing CHRISTMAS
Missing
CHRISTMAS
BOXING DAY
HANGOVER
PARTY
CHRISTMAS
COCKTAILS
2 FOR
£6
DEC 27TH
STAFF
SHOW
HOSTED BY LAQUEEFA
WITH TWIGGY, BOYONCE & MISS M
BIRMINGHAMS PARTY BAR THIS NEW YEARS EVE...
BAR, 48 BROMSGROVE ST, BIRMINGHAM, B5 0121 622 4256
Missing
NEW YEAR EVES PARTY
OPEN UNTIL 6AM! - FREE ENTRY
Missing NEW YEAR

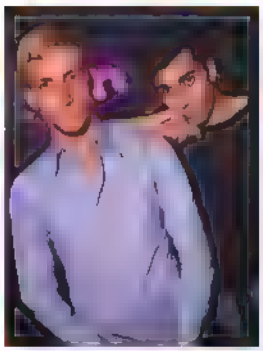
Amanda Lapore wows Brum's **Nightingale Club**

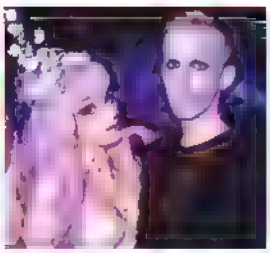


More great photos on **facebook**



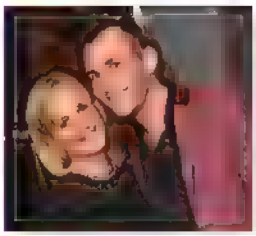
Amanda Lapore raised the roof last month.

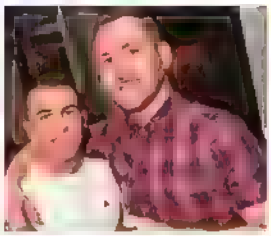




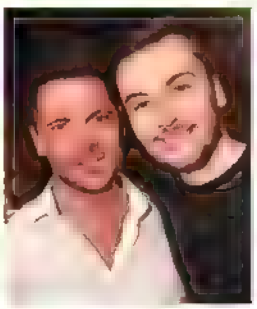
Pictures by Laura Byrne

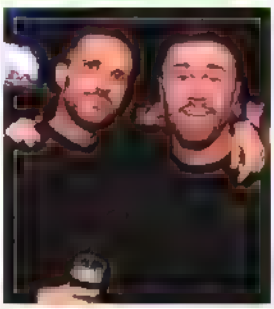
The Loft Lounge: A great place to meet friends

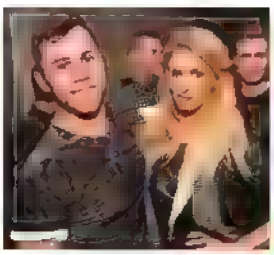




More great photos on facebook

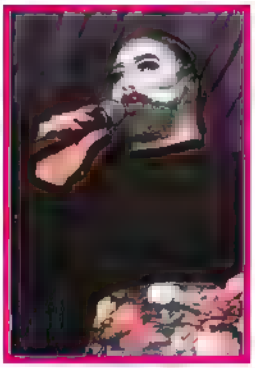


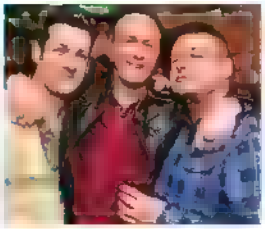




Pictures by Laura Byrne

It's all fun and games at Birmingham's **Eden**!





DECEMBER

edeneden eden

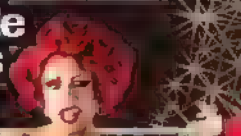
edeneden eden

Open from 2pm every day. 116 Sheriock Street Birmingham B5 6NB 0121 622 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

THUR 3rd — **Charlie Hides**

FRI 4th — **Lip Gloss**

Miss Lip Gloss Internationale 2015. Battle of The Queens Grand Coronation night



THUR 10th — **La Voix**

FROM 10PM TOP INTERNATIONAL ARTISTE - & FILM STAR!

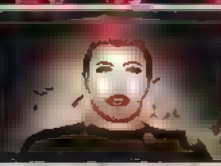
SAT 12th — **Morrissey Disco**

WED 16th — **MADONNA**

AFTER PARTY WITH MILISSA TOTTEN #1 TRIBUTE ACT

THUR 17th — **Laquisha Jonz**

FRIDAY 18th



MIDS BEAR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY with DANNY BEARD

ZONE WINNER - Best Midlands Gay Venue for Men

MB MIDSBEARS

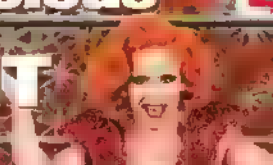
EDEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - ALL WELCOME

SAT 19th — **La Voix**

Danny Beard

Vicki Vivacious

THUR 24th — **DJ NIKKI PARTY NIGHT**

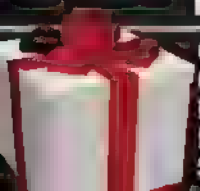


SAT 26th — **BOXING DAY WITH MARY MAC**

THUR 31st — **NEW YEAR'S EVE FREE ENTRY**

DJ Nikki and DJ Dan

EVERY THURS | EVERY FRI & SUN | EVERY SAT



OPENING TIMES

Christmas Day - CLOSED

Boxing Day - OPEN AT 5PM

New Year's Day - CLOSED

Saturday 2nd - OPEN AT 2PM

90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

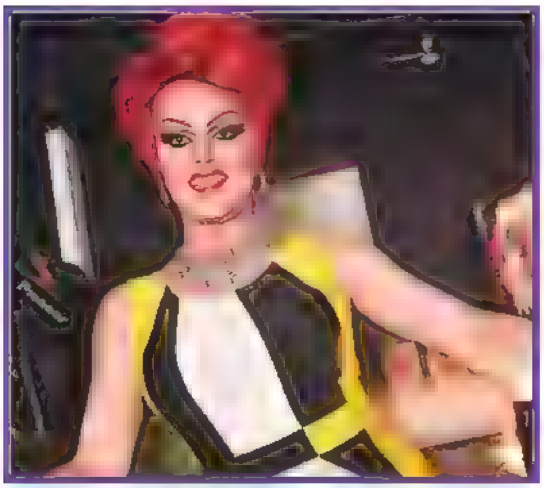
KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI

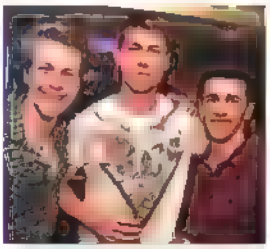
COME ALONG & SING WITH A FRIENDLY REGULAR CROWD

80s HITS WITH DJ DAN

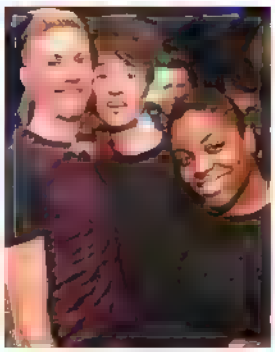
POP & DANCE TILL 3am FROM 2-6 AM

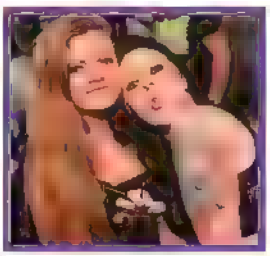
Have a great night with Charlotte at **The Village Inn**!

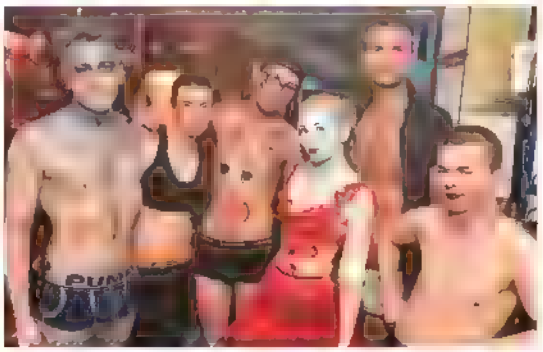




More great photos on **facebook**
facebook com/m dlandszone co uk







Pictures by Laura Byrne

THE VILLAGE INN

DECEMBER

FRIDAY 4TH

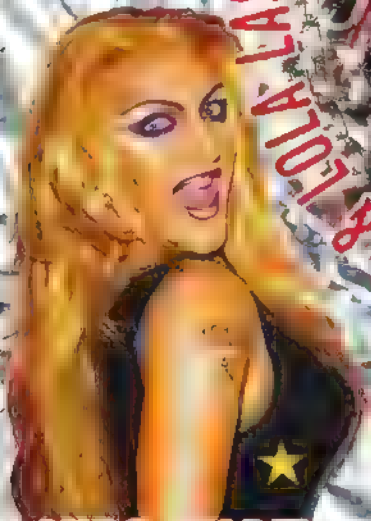
TITTI LA CAMP

SANDRA

FRIDAY 11TH

GLITTER LIPS & LOLA LASAGNE

FRIDAY 18TH CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



THE VILLAGE INN

STAFF SHOW

SUNDAY 27TH

MISS MARTY

BOXING DAY

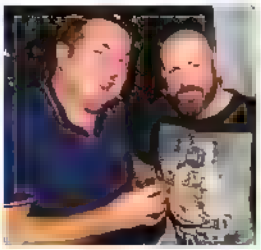
MISS PENNY

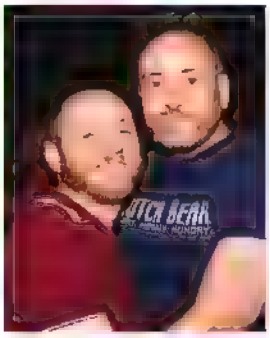
CHRISTMAS EVE

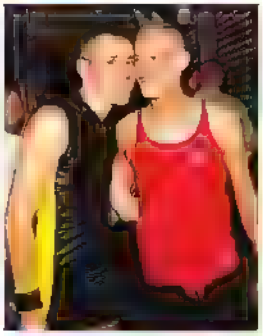
WWW.VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM.CO.UK

VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM @VILLAGEBRUM THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

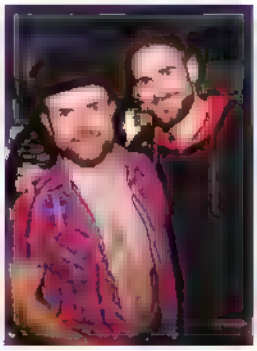
XXL Birmingham: The award-winning men-only night

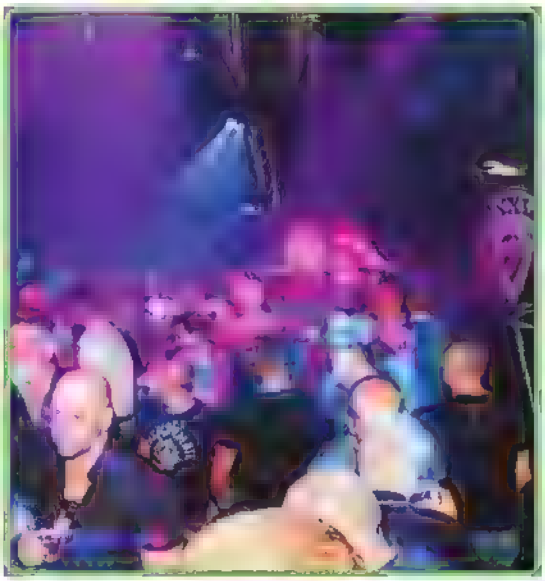


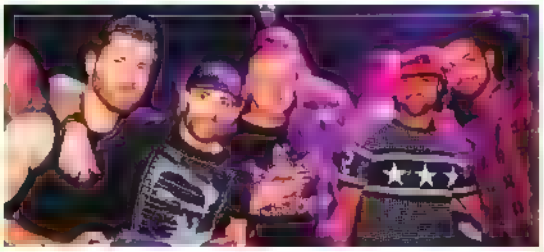




More great photos on **facebook**







Pictures by **Antony Collins**

Birmingham

BAR JESTER
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 1718

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair B11DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St. B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 5

EQUATOR
Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St. B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel:0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 50

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B'ham
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar
See pictures on page 48

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 54

RSVP formerly Queer Street
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street
B'ham
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 54

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St, CV1 2LW
Tel: 024 7625 1738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF.
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road, DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT
3 Stanley Street ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

SHREWSBURY

C:21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
/C21Nightclub

THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate,
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate,
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
4 Hope Street,
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PINK
93 Stafford Street,
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272172

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St DY8 1AG
Tel: 0 826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowd Crowd 1st Mon
monthly. 7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Broognorth Rd
Madeley, TF7 4LB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Bridge St
WS2 8HG
Tel: 01922 613407

THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St. WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS
Tel: 01902 427124
/gorgeousbar

THE WHITE HART
Worcester St.
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St.
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Ann's St. NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament
Street NG1 3BA Gay
Friendly)

NG1 CLUB
76-80 Lower Parliament
St NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

PROPAGANDA
8 Broadway NG1 1PS
0115 979 9183

BIRMINGHAM VENUES

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e: adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk

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the sales team
on 01743 281711

Arts Groups

ACE A Choir of Equality Meets every Thursday [illegible] Tel [illegible]

ACTING OUT An acting group for the Lesbian Community open to anyone [illegible] acting and performance [illegible] or visit www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group [illegible]

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre B'ham [illegible] @hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. [illegible] or visit www.[illegible].org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday, Every Month Tel [illegible]

GAPP Gay and Performing Project [illegible] Call Mike [illegible]

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Hed Tel: Tel: Bobbie [illegible]

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES Lesbian choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. [illegible] 8[illegible]

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tuesday 7pm. Tel: Gaynor [illegible]

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.[illegible]

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call Jon [illegible]

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT Choir. Call Jacky [illegible] for [illegible] or [illegible]

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading group. 1st Monday monthly 5.45pm Tel: [illegible]

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e: dennis@leicestergbt.[illegible]

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Tuesday monthly 11am Waterstones Walsall, Contact Ruth on [illegible]

LGBT Social

ALLSORTS Group for young [illegible] Centre [illegible] Call Paul [illegible] 7412

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday, 12-2pm. [illegible] Walsall Tel: 07475 942929

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (18+). LGBT [illegible] Call Dennis 0116 254 7412

DRUM IN GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every [illegible] HGL drop in. Tel 07532 385760

DRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month & [illegible]

CORBY LGBT NETWORK Networking, Socialising and information [illegible] 3rd Wed monthly [illegible] www.[illegible].co.uk

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the [illegible] Call [illegible]

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester [illegible]

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee [illegible] www.[illegible] [illegible] employee_network@[illegible]

DERBYSHIRE PEACHOUT Men's [illegible] group. Tel [illegible]

DOSTI South Asian men's [illegible] Call 0116 254 [illegible]47

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON SCENE GROUP [illegible] monthly Pub [illegible] Mall Bar on [illegible]

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN [illegible] Harborough contact 0121 [illegible]

EVERGREEN LGBT Social [illegible] B'ham Tel [illegible]

FAN LGBT Social Events [illegible] www.fanaboutfriends.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call: Simon on 0121 565 4166

GAYMEZ LGBT Games [illegible] Tuesday meeting. Tues 8 - 10pm Tel: [illegible]

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & [illegible] [illegible] Meets every Tues [illegible] Tel [illegible]

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's [illegible] Tel: [illegible] [illegible] necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social group for men affected by [illegible] Tel 0116 254 1747

I ME Group for BME LGBT [illegible] Tel [illegible]

LADS CAFE Shropshire [illegible] & Bisexual men [illegible]

LADS CAFE Weekly [illegible] for gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6.30pm. Tel [illegible]

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT [illegible] Retreats for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues. e: thelavendarmovement@g[illegible].com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 291 6138

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFÉ Leicester Call 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents, www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. [illegible]

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke or Trent Meets every Wed at The [illegible] Monday [illegible]

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from [illegible]

NUBIAN RAINBOW [illegible] LGBT people in the community. Meet Monthly Social Group. Tel: 0121 446 1086

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West B'ham LGBT Group. Meets out scenic social events and activities. Call [illegible]

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm [illegible] Wolves Tel [illegible]

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's [illegible] 42+ [illegible] Tel [illegible]

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at [illegible] Market Hall Cafe 8.15pm shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Holiday Avenue Social Group in Birmingham. Meet once a month at [illegible] Call [illegible]

THIRD WAY Social Group for [illegible] Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton, 7-9pm, Tel: 01902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based [illegible] Tel [illegible]

WAGS Walsall Activities [illegible] Tel [illegible]

WARWICK PRIDE Social [illegible] events [illegible] e: hello [illegible]

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK [illegible] www.[illegible]

WS MIDLANDS LGBT Social group. Every 1st Tues [illegible] Tel [illegible]

LGBT Forums

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2002. Email: bccigbt@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST [illegible] and [illegible] community cohesion and representing LGBT [illegible] e: daveviney@blgbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGB Groups. Quarterly [illegible] groups for networking e: daveviney@blgbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM. A [illegible] space for black men to [illegible] issues that affect [illegible] Call [illegible]

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED [illegible] history [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE [illegible] Call 0116 254 [illegible]

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT [illegible] Tel [illegible]

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: [illegible]

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Group Call [illegible]

PINK SHIELD Working to [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

PRISM A forum for LGBT [illegible] Call [illegible]

RAINBOW HERITAGE [illegible] Call 0115 [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Meets [illegible] Tel: 0116 254 1747

Mature Groups

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50. Rainbows Coventry. Call James on [illegible]

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER [illegible] Call [illegible]

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

LGBT 50+ South Staffs [illegible] group for people [illegible]

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every [illegible] Call [illegible]

MATURE GAY MEN For senior [illegible] Tel [illegible]

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly [illegible] for mature men & Gay and Bi-sexual men in [illegible] Every Monday 7 4pm Tel: 01902 425092

OLDER LBG Women's [illegible] Call [illegible]

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel: 01902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT. Tel: 01782 266998

Religious Groups

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation [illegible] classes. Tel: 0121 449 5079

BIRMINGHAM LGCM [illegible] Tel [illegible]345

CHANGING ATTITUDE [illegible] The Head Centre [illegible]

DERBY QUEST [illegible] Sun 5 [illegible] 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH [illegible] 21 454 4406 Wolverhampton. Call: 07734 155664

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay [illegible] their families and friends. Call [illegible]

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS [illegible] movement Tel [illegible]

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay [illegible] Tel [illegible]

QUEST LINKLINE A national [illegible] for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics. Tel: 0808 808 [illegible]

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans & Allies [illegible] welcome. Call: Rob 07943 323989

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS [illegible] @hotmail.com or call 07974 7647

Sports Groups

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Rugby Football Team [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT Rugby League Team Call Andy on [illegible] or visit birminghambullsrlfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB Ladies' Hockey [illegible] www.[illegible]

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team Call [illegible]

LGBT Community Indoor Football [illegible] Tel [illegible]

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wednesday monthly 6.30p.m. Tel: 0121 643 0621

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays [illegible] @yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON [illegible] Call Andy on 02476 346141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's [illegible] Gay [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOYS Gay [illegible] [illegible]

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads [illegible]

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB [illegible] Andy on [illegible] 266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel: [illegible]

WOLVES WARRIORS For [illegible] Tel Andy on [illegible] 305050

Student Groups

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT [illegible] events, every week www.[illegible]

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby [illegible] www.[illegible]

LGBT ASTON UNIVERSITY Tel: [illegible]

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester [illegible] [illegible] @hotmail.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION [illegible] events every Wednesdays & [illegible]

Women's Groups

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP [illegible] Meets 1st sun of the month 1pm Tel: [illegible]

BI WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP [illegible] Meet all [illegible]

BOOTWOMEN Walks in the [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbians and bi women [illegible]

L BOW ROOM Social group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly Tel: [illegible]

FOX FILM CLUB Women-[illegible] Club every 3rd Sunday monthly www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS [illegible] meets in [illegible] bluey@hotmail.co.uk

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?

Do you need to feature your group? Contact Ryan Humphreys Editor on 01743 281722

To find out more about all these organisations, their website

To get your LGBT Group listed: Call Adrian Parker on 01743 281714

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for [illegible] every 2nd Saturday of the month at [illegible]

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group. Women ambition [illegible]

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN [illegible]

THE PINK LINK is a social [illegible] for women with a [illegible] vision. Call [illegible]

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly e me myself [illegible]outlook.com

Youth Groups

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre, 16 Wellington Street [illegible] Call Paul Foxon on [illegible]

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum Tel [illegible]

GALAXY Group for lesbian gay and bisexual young [illegible] and under in [illegible] Trent and [illegible] Call [illegible]

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in [illegible] Telford & [illegible] Call [illegible]

INSIDE OUT Sandwell A youth [illegible] and questioning young people and their friends Tel [illegible]

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT young [illegible] Tel [illegible]

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group [illegible] Sheffield Tel [illegible]

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry [illegible]

SHOUT Sandwell An LGBT youth steering group where young [illegible] Email is [illegible] Tel [illegible]

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 41 413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group [illegible] for young LGBT People Call 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBT+ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday e info@x2y.org.uk

HIV Aids Helpline

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV Call 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel [illegible]

HEALTHY GAY LIFE BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual health and social health and well being. Tel [illegible]

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel [illegible]

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical support and confidential advice around all HIV & AIDS related issues in the Dudley and Sandwell borough. Tel: 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offers a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. The Birmingham [illegible] Tel [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs Leicester Tel [illegible]

LGBT Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND Tel [illegible]

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel [illegible]

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester Tel [illegible]

DAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: [illegible]

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in confidential [illegible] Online area. Tel: [illegible] message [illegible] North [illegible] Tel [illegible] John Wilson

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425989

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel [illegible]

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat Sutton Hill House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & [illegible] Tel [illegible]

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD [illegible] 8486 or [illegible]

RAINBOW SUPPORT HEREFORDSHIRE Free and [illegible] Call [illegible]

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGBT communities Leicester Tel [illegible]

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime Tel [illegible]

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support groups Sexual Health Testing Date Community Groups, Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 3821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Sandwell's A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men Tel [illegible] 3444/4

BROOK BIRMINGHAM Free and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel [illegible]

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for Gay, Bi sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley Call Matt [illegible]

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk in Service every morning from [illegible]

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham. Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual health and social health and well being. Call [illegible]

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC 48 GAOL STREET Open Monday, Friday Call [illegible] for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Call [illegible]

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House Wednesday afternoon Call Matt Barlow on [illegible] or [illegible]

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing Leicester Call [illegible]

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs. Tel [illegible]

MEN ONLY Sexual Health [illegible] at Heaven Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Matt 07980 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham 1st Monday monthly Call Adrian on [illegible]

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems every 2nd [illegible] Call [illegible]

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE sexual health and social support Call Matt Barlow [illegible]

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month Head at The Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 0300 123 3670

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGBT communities and support for HIV & STIs including testing services Leicester Tel [illegible]

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community Tel [illegible]

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre Tel [illegible]

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project providing free confidential advice & support Tel [illegible]

Support Groups

ABOVE Prostate Cancer Support Group Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support Call Peter on [illegible]

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Peer led SMART meetings in a friendly private setting e. smartbgb@yahoo.com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday bi monthly in Solihull Tel Helen on [illegible]

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Mental) Social and Support Group in Leicester Call [illegible]

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND Gay lesbian bisexual or trans Asian [illegible] Call [illegible] 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton Call Neil on [illegible] or Maria on [illegible]

DOSTI South Asian men's support group Leicester Call [illegible]

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. call [illegible] 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians bisexuals gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors Tel [illegible]

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men Call [illegible]

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for Gay bisexual men who are affected by HIV Group provides support events [illegible] Leicester Tel [illegible]

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 [illegible]

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 [illegible]

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men Tel [illegible] E mail info@hgl.nhs.uk

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups Call [illegible]

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has an alcohol problem or concerns Tel Tony on [illegible]

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire Tel [illegible]

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country Tel [illegible]

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton Tel [illegible]

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton Meets once a month Tel [illegible]

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly Tel [illegible]

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health Contact Alison Lehmann for [illegible] Tel [illegible]

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas Supporting families of LGBT People Meets bi monthly on the 1st Tue Tel Margaret [illegible]

PINK PARENTS A social networking group for all lesbian gay parents and their children E pink parents_northern@hotmail.com

RAINBOW OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB&T+ refugees, personnel, past & present. Helpline [illegible]

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual violence and hate crimes Tel 0121 643 [illegible]

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in service Every Friday Tel [illegible]

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone [illegible] Tel [illegible]

TIME OUT COUNSELLING Coventry. For all LGBT+ people Tel [illegible]

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel [illegible]

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit the website com groups butterfliesleicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email [illegible] or visit www.outskirts.org.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel [illegible]

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual Transvestite or Transgender in north staffs www.staystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS support and group for people who are Trans Transvestite or Transgender Tel 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly Tel [illegible]

and contact details visit www.midandszone.co.uk

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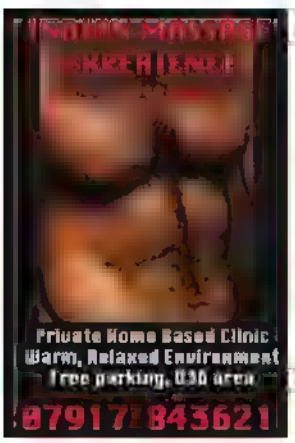

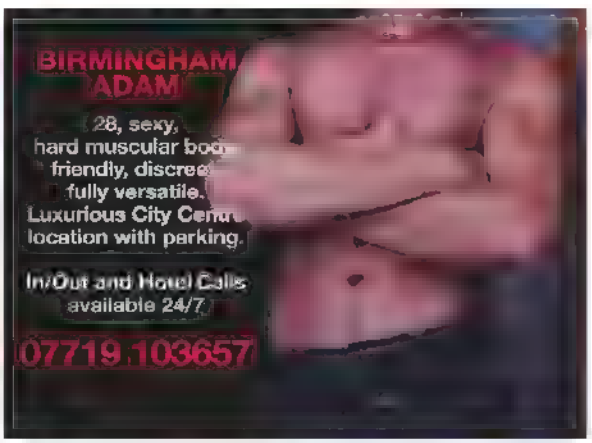

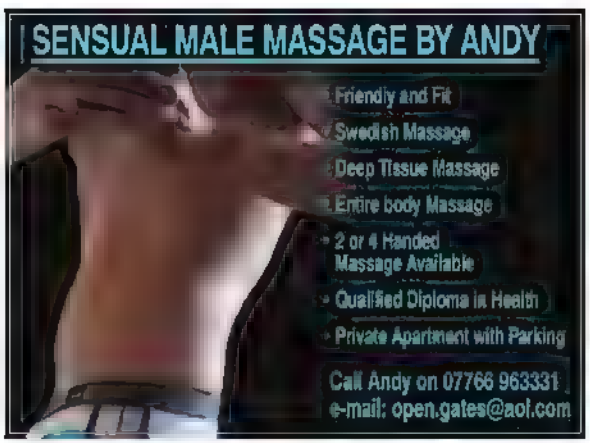

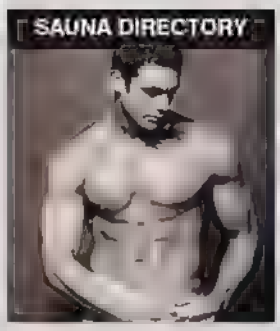

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gay-sauna.com

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127 George Road, Erdington
Birmingham, B23 7SH
spartanhealthclub.co.uk

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
Tel: 0116 367 3932
61 Bedford St,
South Leicester LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

UNIT 2
Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street,
Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

CELTS
Tel: 0116 285 6000
[illegible]
celts-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM
Tel: 01332 209150
[illegible] Mary's Gate [illegible]
citysteam.co.uk

CITY STEAM 2
Tel: 0115 959 8603
[illegible]
citysteam.co.uk

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
Tel: 01384 442030
[illegible]
heroeshealthclub.com

MANZFIELDS
Tel: 01623 422257
71 Ratcliffe [illegible]
NG18 2LB
manzfields.co.uk

CITY CELTS
Tel: 0116 262 7770
[illegible]
celts-sauna.co.uk

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Tel: 0115 955 3103
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reflectionshealthclub.co.uk

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29th December	10.00 - 19.00
30th December	10.00 - 00.00
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1st New Years Day	10.00 - 04.00
2nd January	10.00 - 06.00

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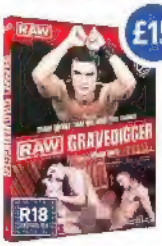

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Order Ref#: 08476D

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Order Ref#: 07772D

THE EDITOR'S NOTE by Ryan Humphreys

Festive fun and Dames...

A hearty winter welcome to the December issue of Midlands Zone magazine. Here at Zone HQ, we're currently decking our halls with boughs of holly in preparation for the forthcoming festive season. We're also very much hoping you find plenty in this issue to keep you entertained while you're waiting for a big fat fellow with an enormous bag of prezzies to enter your chimney and leave you a delightful surprise or several.

Playing it safe...

With the 'season of good will' bringing with it plenty of opportunity to put on your party pants and drink till you drop, I think it appropriate to sound a note of caution. When you're three sheets to the wind and the pleasures of the flesh are on the horizon, don't forget to wear a condom.

Statistics from Public Health England show that there are now nearly 110,000 people living with HIV in the UK. Around a quarter of these are unaware of their infection and at risk of passing on the virus to others through unprotected sex.

These figures underline the need to further increase both the number and frequency of HIV tests, which is critical to tackling the current levels of HIV transmission. It also underlines the need to behave sensibly at all times when it comes to sleeping with somebody. Don't let the 'demon drink' and a party atmosphere leave you in danger of having unprotected sex this festive season.

A right Charlie?

And speaking of HIV, it will be interesting to see how attitudes towards the subject change now that major movie star Charlie Sheen has revealed his positive status. As we go to print, the story is still very new, but already it seems the lawsuits from former lovers are piling up against him. We'll be watching this story's development with interest...

There ain't nothin' like a Dame...

So along with popping condoms into my pocket and getting pleasantly sozzled this month, I also intend to head for the theatre and laugh out loud at a pantomime Dame or two.

The panto Dame, traditionally played by a guy, has offered plenty of employment for much-loved gay stars of stage and screen down the years - including Julian Clary of course, who is appearing in panto at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Wigs off to 'em all, I say - and long may their camp demeanour, saucy innuendo and disconcertingly heavy dependence on rouge continue to entertain us at this most magical time of year.

A very merry yuletide season to you all.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Stating the obvious

Another month in which my 'glad to be gay' bubble has been somewhat deflated. First Krzystol Charasma, a senior Vatican priest, was fired after admitting being in a gay relationship. In a subsequent statement, he said he could no longer bear the "homophobic hate of the church and the exclusion, marginalisation and stigmatisation of people like me".

Secondly, in a landmark ruling, a gay man from Southend has won the first ever compensation award for discrimination based on homophobic gestures. Peter Edwards, a locksmith, was sued following months of taunting that ranged from mild limp-wristed gestures to offensive, crude imitations of oral sex. For the first time, a court has stated that discrimination can be by gestures alone.

These stories coincide with a shocking study conducted by Harvard University that revealed homophobes are themselves gay. The five-year study involving 5,000 men has been accepted by the American Psychological Association as 'absolutely irrefutable'. The experiment used the rather technical-sounding Penis Responsiveness Technology and brainwave function readings to test subjects when they were shown pictures of gay men engaging in shows of affection, including hand holding, cuddling and kissing.

The study revealed that, without fail, every participant who'd expressed a dislike of LGBT people was sexually aroused by the images. It tells us what many of us have long suspected - that many homophobes and queerbashers are themselves gay. Perhaps we should remind them of that the next time they sling their offensive words or gestures at us.

Krzystof Charasma

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